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THE NEWSPAPER FOR MAIDSTONE, MALLING, LARKFIELD AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES



COUNCIL SAY 'NO' TO PROPOSED KIG SITE

WHAT'S ON & WATCH

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THE RALLY: Protestors marched through Bearsted to proposed KIG site. Search 'protest'

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POINT TAKEN: Ray Carey remonstrates against AXA representatives (foreground) at last week's meeting

■ BY ANNA WHITE

COUNCILLORS have unanimously rejected plans for Kent International Gateway (KIG) freight depot near Bearsted.

About 1,000 people packed into a warehouse at Maidstone Studios on Thursday evening to hear Maidstone council's planning committee come to a decision on proposals for a giant road-rail freight interchange.

After listening to residents, officers and MPs slam the plans for a 285-acre depot on open countryside between Bearsted and Hollingbourne during a heated four-and-a-half hour meeting, the councillors voted unanimously against KIG on all 18 grounds.

The depot was condemned for the effects it would have on the countryside, wildlife, traffic, pollution and archaeological heritage.

It was also seen as hindering the council's plans and ambitions for the future development of Maidstone.

Another key point was that the planning committee felt the evidence given during the meeting by Neil Henderson, a representative for applicant AXA Real Estate, did "not meet fundamental requirements for a strategic rail interchange".

The applicant had originally said KIG would attract 15 to 19 trains per day, but research carried out by experts appointed by the council showed it would only attract two to three trains and 6,000 vehicles per day.

Therefore the council felt the applicant's main argument that KIG would help stop climate change by reducing road freight did not

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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2 A barge is deliberately beached after it began sinking in the Channel. **Search 'barge'**



3 Gills boss Mark Stimson and defender Simon King talk about their chances in the League 2 play-off final. **Search 'Wembley'**

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VACANCY: Vinters Park Crematorium is advertising the role of a cremation technician

Crematorium technician is a job to die for

■ BY EMILY HALL

IT'S up for grabs – but is this Britain's most macabre job?

Vinters Park Crematorium in Maidstone is looking for a £15,000-a-year cremation technician and chapel attendant, who can organise services and cremate corpses.

The 37-hour-a-week position might be thought of as creepy, but others say it's a massively fulfilling role for someone with the right qualities.

Tim Jefferson, Maidstone council's environmental facilities manager, said the new recruit would be joining a team of two other technicians.

He said: "These aren't macabre people who are depressed or creepy. They are mature, and that doesn't mean to say they are mature in age.

"They are very open and customer-facing people because they have to deal with the clergy, bereaved families and funeral directors.

"They work best behind the scenes,

making sure that the funeral and cremation go to plan. They have to have an understanding and empathy, and a real pride in what they do."

The council claims the right person will "provide a sympathetic service to mourners and a support service."

The advert also gives assurance that the successful candidate will be given full training.

Mr Jefferson added: "The chapel attendant will ensure the chapel and its surrounding areas are prepared in readiness for the funeral service.

"When there is music played, the chapel attendant will be responsible for that, whether it's classical music or hip hop.

"After the service they will prepare for the cremation, instructing the other cremation technicians that the coffin can be taken to the crematory."

The role includes training on cremation and applicants will also be expected to scatter and bury ashes.

Applications for the position, which is advertised on www.jobsgopublic.co.uk – are welcome until this Friday.

yourmaidstone
NEWS IN BRIEF

Appeal for witnesses to stabbing in town

A YOUNG man was taken to hospital after being stabbed during a night out in Maidstone town centre.

Police said the man, 20, from Maidstone, was taken to St Thomas' Hospital in London Bridge after he was stabbed with a sharp implement at about 11.30pm on Saturday, at the junction of St Faith's Street and Station Road.

The victim was yesterday described as in a comfortable condition.

Police are appealing for witnesses and are examining CCTV footage.

Anyone with information is asked to call officers on 01795 419182.

Phantom star to lead singing at Proms date

IT'S time to get the picnic baskets out as the Proms in the Park returns.

Phantom of the Opera star Jill Washington will get the crowd singing along and the audience will be able to watch performances of Rule Britannia, Jerusalem, and Land of Hope and Glory.

The annual free event is in Whatman Millennium Park on Saturday, May 23, from 4pm. The concert begins at 7.30pm.

For details call the Hazlitt Arts Centre on 01622 758611 or visit hazlittartscentre.co.uk

Man in court after raid bid on jewellers

A MAN has been charged following an attempted robbery at a town centre jewellery store.

Stephen Almond, 43, of Melville Road, Maidstone, appeared at Maidstone Magistrates' Court on Friday morning charged with robbery and possession of a firearm. He was remanded in custody to appear at crown court.

The court appearance followed a raid at Charmian Beaton Design Jewellers, in Pudding Lane, Maidstone, at 3.30pm on Wednesday.

Another man arrested in connection with the attempted robbery has been released on police bail.

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Sub-human? Comedian has a change of heart

A STAND-UP comic who once labelled the people of Maidstone as "sub-human" has had a change of heart after a string of successful performances in the county town.

National newspaper The Independent dug up a comment made by comedian Mark Watson at the start of his career for a feature on up-and-coming comedy stars on Monday.

Mr Watson, 29, who is currently starring in TV adverts for Magners Pear Cider, said about the nightmare show: "I had a gig in Maidstone, Kent, very early on.

"The venue doesn't exist anymore – hopefully it burnt down. One doesn't like to generalise but, well, they were sub-human."

The Radio 4 comedian has also been recorded slamming the county town in the past, saying: "Everyone always seems to be really drunk and violent there."

But since he made the comments the comic has had a change of heart and has performed several successful gigs in the town, including one at the Hazlitt Arts Centre in January this year, with his All The Thoughts I've Had Since I Was Born tour.

Victoria Lepper, of Mr Watson's representatives Karushi Management, said: "This was a quote taken from very early on in Mark's career and after this first difficult gig, he's since performed to some great crowds in Maidstone."

Cllr Brian Moss, Maidstone council's cabi-

■ BY ANNA WHITE

net member for leisure and culture, said: "We're not surprised he likes us now. He played to a packed audience last time he came to Maidstone."

The Hazlitt Arts Centre is a great venue for comedy and lots of comedians like performing there. Marcus Brigstocke will be appearing next season."

Mr Watson's comments were not the only time the town has been slated a comedian.

Camp comic and presenter of Channel 4's Friday Night Project, Alan Carr, called Maidstone "retarded" and full of "homophobic narrow-minded morons" and "racists" last year.

His comments annoyed MP Ann Widdecombe, who said he was talking "complete rot".

Maidstone's Up the Creek Comedy Club shut more than a year ago, but the county town still has the Kings of Comedy weekly club above Flaming Henry's restaurant in the High Street.

Owner Ilhan Nurhakli, said: "We have a show here every Friday night, and we have had never had two comedians the same and every time there is a different reaction."

People in Maidstone are open to all different comedy topics so maybe the acts weren't funny or put across that well, which isn't the crowd's fault, so comedians shouldn't be attacking Maidstone."

FROM FRONT PAGE

stand up to scrutiny. The panel said KIG would significantly harm the countryside and Maidstone residents through its 24 hours a day, seven days a week operation.

Mid Kent and Faversham MP Hugh Robertson applauded the council decision, but warned: "We have only won the first battle of what will be a long war and we are going to need to keep the pressure on for months."

Ray Carey, 79, who lives in Bearsted with his wife Eileen, said: "We have had to put up with so much – the M20 put through our village, then the rail link and now this – when will it end? The minister needs to listen to what the council says and what people want, she just has to."

Earlier this year AXA Real Estate successfully appealed to go straight to a public inquiry, arguing Maidstone council was taking too long to reach its decision. But the authority was still required to hold a planning meeting to decide how it would have ruled.

This decision will be taken into account at the public inquiry, due to start on October 15 at a venue yet to be decided.

Communities and Local Government Minister Hazel Blears will then make the final decision.

NEW safety cameras could be installed along a stretch of the M20 in a bid to reduce the number of accidents.

It forms part of a proposal by the Highways Agency which would also see the introduction of variable speed limits.

But the proposals – on which motorists have three months to put their views across – are likely to upset those who claim cameras are installed purely to generate income from fines.

The scheme is similar to the one already in force which varies the speed limits on the busy stretch of the M25 around Heathrow.

It is suggested the new traffic scheme would be introduced between junctions four and seven of the M20 – the West Malling turn-off to the A249 turn-off at Maidstone. Variable limits would be introduced during peak times or after accidents.

The measure was introduced on

the M25 in 1995 and led to a ten per cent drop in accidents and improved journey times throughout the affected stretch.

The multi-million-pound system allows the Highways Agency to manage traffic flow by slowing traffic or closing lanes after an accident.

"It uses sensors in the road surface to detect the volume of traffic, the speed it is traveling at and how it is flowing.

It calculates the optimum speed to keep everyone moving and reduce the stop-start pattern which causes tailbacks.

More than a dozen overhead gantries would be built to display the limit electronically, with the reverse of the gantries including speed cameras to record anyone breaking either the variable or national speed limit.

Motorists have 12 weeks to have their say on the M20 proposal, visit www.highways.gov.uk/roads/projects/23322.aspx.



FUNNY THAT: Mark Watson's first Maidstone gig was a let-down

Planners reject freight depot

FROM FRONT PAGE

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Sporting chance of Olympic glory

A WEBSITE advertising Maidstone's Olympic hopefuls to potential business sponsors has been launched.

The site, www.maidstonesdream.co.uk, funded by Maidstone council and supported by Yourmaidstone, went live last night at a special event at Maidstone Gateway, King Street.

The website features the profiles of Maidstone's top athletes and sportspeople, including their specialist sport, name, age, education, sporting history, aspirations, coach, greatest achievements and proudest moment.

Businesses can search through the profiles and choose who they would like to sponsor and help that athlete take their talent all the way to the London Olympics. Yourmaidstone will exclusively profile one of the site's registered athletes monthly, starting from May 27.

Any business or athlete wishing to register their interest should contact Karen Jeal on 01622 602759 or email maidstonesdream@maidstone.gov.uk.

Terrier released

A JACK Russell terrier was rescued after two days trapped in a rabbit hole.

Owner Matt Hayes was at the scene in Quarry Wood nature reserve in West Farleigh, near Maidstone, as firefighters tunneled more than 20ft into the quarry to rescue his four-year-old pet, called Stan, last Tuesday.

Mr Hayes, who is a warden for Kent Wildlife Trust and in charge of the reserve, was walking Stan with partner Gemma Grant on Sunday when the dog dashed off in pursuit of a rabbit.

Mr Hayes, 27, from Teynham, near Sittingbourne, said: "He loves chasing rabbits and squirrels and was off like a flash."

Shoppers urged to vote for change by Tories

THE Conservatives took to the streets of Maidstone at the weekend to encourage shoppers to Vote for Change.

Helen Grant, the Tory parliamentary candidate for Maidstone and Weald, set up a stall opposite the Fremlin Walk in Week Street.

She was joined by Euro election candidates Daniel Hannon, Therese Coffey, Sarah Richardson and Tony Devenish, as well as county council hopefuls Paulina Stockell, Paul Butcher and Jeff Tree.

Martial arts group's hard work earns Clubmark

A MARTIAL arts club in Maidstone has received national recognition for its high standards and continued hard work.

KIXX Martial Arts and Fitness Gym, in Victoria Works, Granville Road, has been presented with a Clubmark Accreditation.

To achieve such an award the club was required to undergo examinations for all procedures, qualifications, insurances, club plans and work with local schools, which were checked and approved.

Just pop in to bazaar for all the fun of the circus

SHOPPERS in Maidstone will be met by juggling staff and clowns when they pop into Hawkins Bazaar later this month.

The toy store will be bringing the fun of a circus to their shop, in the Mall Chequers, on Saturday, May 23, to help raise funds for the Aylesford-based Heart of Kent Hospice.

The staff will be demonstrating the art of juggling and plate spinning and there will be face painting, competitions, clowns, balloons and sweets for youngsters to enjoy.

Artistic pupils invited to help fill up Noah's Ark

PUPILS have been invited to help complete a Noah's Ark project for a summer fair.

The star attraction at the annual event of the Friars of Aylesford Priory will be live animals including tortoises, snakes, chameleons, lizards, and crested geckos.

But Maidstone youngsters are invited to paint other animals from Noah's Ark to be displayed at the event on June 21. For more details call Ross Friday on 07855 252747 or email events@thefriars.org.uk.

Drug gang 'profited from human misery'

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

DRUG smugglers who used high-speed dinghies to transport large quantities of cocaine across the Channel have been jailed for a total of 54 years.

The gang of five men – including two from Larkfield – were arrested after a member of the public spotted a 'military-like operation' on a beach at Hythe, in March last year.

It involved the transfer of several black holdalls from a boat to a waiting vehicle, which was then driven away at high speed.

All five men were sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court on Thursday.

Det Sgt John McDermott said: "This is a very satisfying conclusion to what has been an intensive, meticulous and lengthy investigation across Kent, London and France.

"Significantly, the five men sentenced were part of an organised crime group that was probably one of the most prolific gangs involved in this type of criminality.

"This sentence sends a clear message to anyone involved in this type of crime. We are determined to prosecute offenders and strip them of their assets."

Police identified Nicolas Chappell, 47, from Larkfield, as the ring-leader of the gang, and he was sentenced to 18 years in prison after pleading guilty to conspiring to supply con-



DRUG TRAFFICKERS: David Manser, left and Nicolas Chappell with a kilogram of cocaine that was seized by police

trolled drugs and money-laundering.

Brothers Neil, 33, and Jamie Hackett, 25, both from Bexleyheath, will spend 11 and nine years behind bars respectively. They too had pleaded guilty to the charges.

David Manser, 26, from Larkfield, and Giedrius Kavaliauskas, 28, from West Sussex, were both found guilty and both received eight-year sentences.

A sixth man, Paul Proud, 47, from London, was acquitted.

The investigation began in September, 2007, when a member of the public spotted them taking packages from a boat at Hythe.

Officers later caught the men loading the vessel into a van. They claimed to have been

fishing despite having no equipment.

After the second operation the following March, police searched Chappell's home and found high-grade cocaine with a street value of more than £70,000 as well as a large amount of cash, the inflatable boat and various items of sea equipment. More was found at the home and business premises of Neil Hackett.

Judge David Griffiths-Jones, sentencing, said: "This was a well-planned and drilled operation using high-powered inflatable boats to travel to France in what was an organised commercial enterprise involving substantial quantities of cocaine.

"Those involved in this enterprise sought to make huge profits from human misery."

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Right at home on The Range

A HUGE selection of home, garden and leisure goods is now on sale at Dockside Outlet Centre's newest store at Chatham Maritime.

The Range, which welcomed its first customers on May Day, offers more than 65,000 products all at discounted prices.

Store owner Chris Dawson said Chatham's new rail links to the capital tempted him to invest in Medway.

He said: "The high-speed rail line opens in a few months, which will lead to investment in the area and more people living here."

"We're going through a housing crash but this will recover much faster in Medway because of

the situation with the trains."

Dockside centre manager Anthony Sutton welcomed the latest addition to the shopping complex, saying: "We always want to be moving forward and had reached a point where we were static."

"The Range has given us an injection that will move us onwards and upwards to 2010 and beyond."

Dockside Outlet Centre has extended its opening hours, with shoppers now able to browse from 9am to 8pm on Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm on Saturdays, 11am to 5pm on Sundays and 10am to 5pm on bank holidays.

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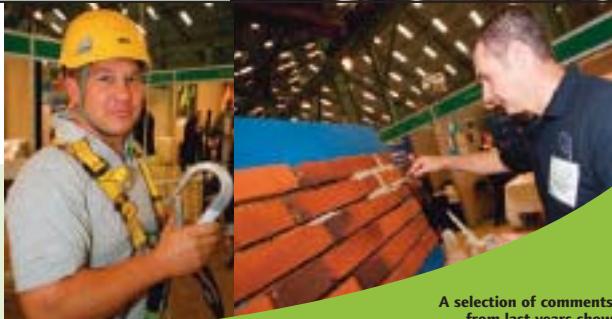
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VERDICT: An inquest at County Hall heard that David Roots and Zocika O'Kelly inhaled carbon monoxide fumes

Couple killed by toxic fumes from gas grill

A COUPLE found dead at their home on Christmas Day had inhaled lethal carbon monoxide fumes from a gas cooker, an inquest heard.

David Roots, 55, and Zocika O'Kelly, 53, were found in the bedroom of the terraced house they shared in Eccles, near Aylesford, on December 25 last year. She was on the bed, he was lying face down on the floor.

Police used a key from a neighbour to get into the property in Belgrave Street after a call from Mr Roots' estranged wife, Patricia. She raised the alarm when Mr Roots, a lighting engineer, did not turn up for a pre-arranged Christmas dinner with their three adult children at her home in Hoo.

Sgt Peter Heaton told the inquest at County Hall in Maidstone last Wednesday that he discovered the bodies shortly after arriving at the house at 5.10pm. He found the grill of a gas cooker in the kitchen was still on and very hot, but with its door closed.

Driving back to the police station he got a headache – a sign of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Cliff Willard, a regional technical manager for British Gas, who helped investigate the incident, told the inquest the cooker had instructions on it for the grill door to be kept open while in use. He said the door might

■ BY ANNA WHITE

have been accidentally shut following cooking or the grill might have been put on to heat the property.

Coroner Roger Sykes recorded a verdict of accidental death.

During the inquest it emerged that the deaths could have been avoided if a modification had been made to the door of the cooker.

Karen Springfield, of Kent County Council's Trading Standards, said her department had been alerted after three similar incidents of carbon monoxide poisoning from gas cookers.

She said trading standards had been overseeing changes to this type of gas cooker with a door seal to increase airflow.

After the inquest Mrs Roots, who had been separated from her husband for five years, said: "It is too late for us, but hopefully this will stop it from happening to others."

Mr and Mrs Roots had three children together, David, 26, Katy, 20, and Vicky, 25, who has a three-year-old son, Cameron.

Vicky, who lives in Chatham, described her dad as "funny, generous and a hard-worker."

She said: "He loved Cameron so much. Cameron keeps asking me when he can see granddad, but I tell him he can't, because he is with the angels."

Suspects captured on CCTV after purse theft

POLICE are hunting two men suspected of stealing a purse from a store in Maidstone.

The purse was taken from Wilkinsons, in The Mall Chequers shopping centre, on Tuesday last week between 11am and 11.20am.

The investigating officers have released this still image taken from CCTV footage of two suspects.

One of the men had dark hair and wore blue jeans, white trainers and a dark-coloured coat. The other also had dark hair and wore dark coat, trousers and shoes.

Anyone who knows the men should call Kent Police on 01795 419111, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



yourmaidstone NEWS IN BRIEF

Chef unveils school hall

CELEBRITY chef Richard Phillips opened a state-of-the-art kitchen and dining hall at a Maidstone school on Friday by cooking for parents and pupils.

The chef on BBC TV show Ready, Steady, Cook launched Sutton Valence Preparatory School's new dining hall, which will cater for 380 children.

Mr Phillips, who lives in Maidstone, is the executive head chef of three of Kent's finest restaurants: Michelin-starred Thackeray's, in Tunbridge Wells, Chapel Down, in Tenterden, and The Hengist, in Aylesford.

He unveiled a plaque at the £450,000 dining hall, joined by headmaster Craig Gibbs and chairman of governors Bryan Vaughan.

After the unveiling the chef, who is backing KOS Media's Food for Kent campaign to encourage people to make the most of local produce, whipped up a summer dessert, with a little help from some of the pupils.

Pile-up closes motorway

MOTORISTS were caught in traffic jams after a three-car pile-up closed a section of the M20, near Maidstone.

The crash happened just after junction eight of the coastbound carriageway at Hollingbourne at 10.30am on Friday. Both carriageways were closed to allow the Kent Air Ambulance to land.

One person was flown to hospital in Essex with shoulder and pelvis injuries, another was taken by land ambulance to William Harvey Hospital in Ashford with minor injuries. Traffic was diverted on to the A20.

Police hunting for flasher

A FLASHER who exposed himself to a dog walker in woods near Maidstone is being hunted by police.

The incident took place in Heath Woods at Penenden Heath, at about 12.55pm on Saturday, May 2.

The man was described as being in his thirties, of eastern European appearance, 6ft 4in tall and of medium build.

He wore baggy shell suit-like trousers and a black fleece-like hat with red piping. Anyone with information should call Kent Police on 01795 419182 or CrimeStoppers, in confidence, on 0800 555111.

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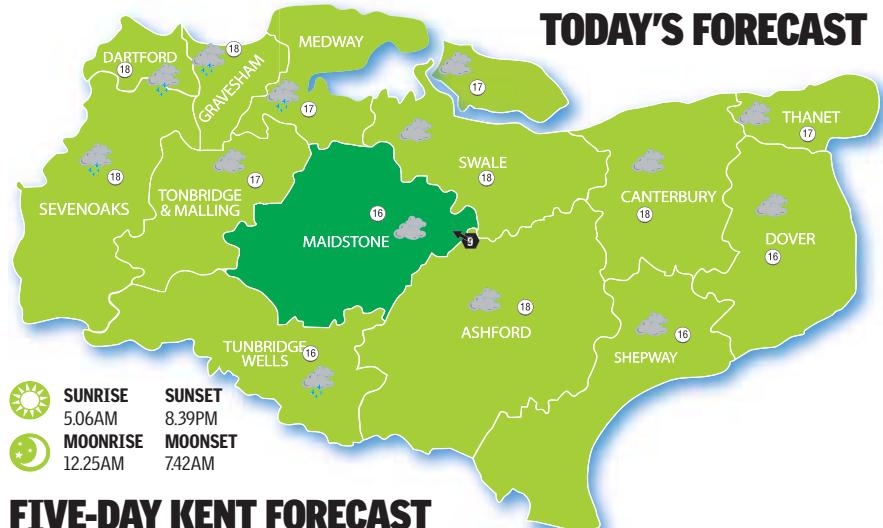
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	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	15°C	19°C	16°C	15°C	15°C	Gravesend	15°C	19°C	15°C	15°C	15°C
Canterbury	14°C	17°C	15°C	15°C	15°C	Maidstone	14°C	18°C	15°C	15°C	14°C
Chatham	12°C	17°C	13°C	13°C	13°C	Ramsgate	14°C	17°C	15°C	15°C	15°C
Dartford	15°C	19°C	15°C	15°C	15°C	Rochester	12°C	17°C	13°C	13°C	13°C
Dover	12°C	16°C	14°C	14°C	14°C	Sevenoaks	12°C	17°C	14°C	13°C	13°C
Faversham	12°C	17°C	13°C	13°C	13°C	Sittingbourne	12°C	17°C	13°C	13°C	13°C
Folkestone	12°C	16°C	14°C	14°C	14°C	Tonbridge	13°C	18°C	15°C	15°C	14°C
Gillingham	12°C	17°C	13°C	13°C	13°C	Tun Wells	13°C	18°C	15°C	15°C	14°C

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DOVER - DUNKERQUE - FERRIES



WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	5:53pm	5.0m
	Sunday	6:41am	4.8m
Dover	Saturday	4:36pm	5.5m
	Sunday	5:37pm	5.3m
Dungeness	Saturday	4:23pm	6.2m
	Sunday	5:27pm	6.0m
Ramsgate	Saturday	5:06pm	4.2m
	Sunday	6:07pm	4.0m
Sheerness	Saturday	5:42pm	4.8m
	Sunday	6:30am	4.7m
Whitstable	Saturday	5:52pm	4.5m
	Sunday	6:47am	4.4m



CHARITY TREK: Holly Rogers during her 8.5 mile walk

Holly's hundreds to help hospice after long walk

A SIX-year-old girl managed to raise £800 for a hospice in just four days before she completed an 8.5 mile sponsored walk.

Holly Rogers took part in the annual Bluebell Walk at Harrietsham on Sunday May 3 in aid of the Heart of Kent Hospice, which is based in Aylesford.

The youngster read about the charity walk, which goes through the North Downs, in a KOS Media paper shortly before the event.

She started collecting sponsors with just days to go with help from Serina Yorke, who works with Holly's father at SC Motor Factors in Maidstone.

Holly's mother, Samatha Rogers, said: "Serina visited all of SC's customers and asked if they would like to sponsor Holly for the walk and the response was amazing, it just goes to show you that people really do care."

"Many thanks to all friends, family and SC Motor Factor customers who sponsored Holly."



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	15°C	Madrid	22°C
Athens	25°C	New York	18°C
Barcelona	19°C	Paris	16°C
Beijing	27°C	Rome	24°C
Bombay	33°C	Sydney	18°C
Cape Town	18°C	Tenerife	21°C
Cardiff	15°C	Tokyo	22°C
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QUESTION & ANSWER

LUKE JOHNSON



Q & A

The president of The Kent Motorcycle Society and student at University of Kent, spoke to **Laurence Mozafari** about what the club does, his favourite bike and pretending to be Arnold Schwarzenegger

Q Tell us a little about yourself.

A I was born in Halifax, West Yorkshire. I'm president of The Kent Motorcycle Society (KMS) at the University of Kent, where I'm studying law and French.

Q What is Kent Motorcycle Society?

A KMS is a university society. We have around 25 members who are university students. Others that come along are either ex-students or are friends from London and around Kent. The society started four years ago, when a friend decided it would be good for all the students on campus with motorbikes to socialise. We go to the pub during the week and at weekends we go riding. Since I took the presidency this year membership has grown. We've started looking at ways to teach people to ride. This year we have had free taster sessions with South East Motorcycles at Thanet and the society subsidises the test fee.

Q How did you get involved?

A The university runs a freshers' fair at the start of every year where the new students come along and check out the different societies on campus. I'd heard about the KMS and really wanted to join. I'd just passed my bike test when I started university so I wanted to get out on the road with everybody. I had a

field bike when I was 13 that I had paid for by doing two paper rounds. I sold that and always wanted to get riding again. After I had lived in Japan for a while I saw a bike out there that I really liked, so when I got back I bought one and spent six months polishing it before I passed my test. When I got riding again, the bike got cleaned less and less. It was far more fun to ride than polish.

Q What kind of events do you hold?

A We all go riding most weekends and attend the bike shows in London, which did take some organising in previous years. However, the university has been really good and paid for us to be trained to drive the minibuses, which they provide for free. That's made it a lot easier to get everybody involved. We've also had trips over to France and across Europe. We're planning a camping trip to the Isle of Man TT this year.

Q How can people get involved?

A Membership is limited to university students, but we welcome anybody along as if they were. People can always send us an email. We're happy to offer general advice and information. If people would like to come riding then we'd welcome them along too. We send out email updates giving details of rides and trips. If anybody is interested in being

added to our mailing list they can send us their details by email.

Q Do you ever get compared to the Hells Angels?

A I had a cruiser last year and liked to picture myself as Arnold Schwarzenegger, but it wasn't really happening. A lot of the lads ride sports bikes so we're all about the speed, the image carries itself.

Q What is your favourite bike?

A Norton, the old British marque, is to start producing bikes again after around 40 years of being defunct. I'd love to get my hands on one of the new ones but there's a limited run of 200 this year until production steps up and there'll be a lot of competition to get one!

Q Do you think biking is dangerous?

A Anybody who's never tried biking would tell you it's dangerous. Biking is just as safe as being in a car or on a bus. I've never had a bump, crash, scratch or fall. I'm living proof that being on two wheels doesn't carry life threatening injuries with it. I've never been in a difficult situation I wasn't able to avoid with a bit of quick manoeuvring.

• To be added to the mailing list, email KMS at kentmotorcyclesociety@gmail.com

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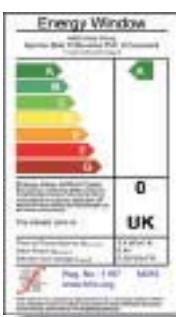
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Produced in Kent's cherry trail at Doddington Place Gardens. Search 'cherry'

EDITOR'S CHOICE

You can view all these videos and others from around the county with the click of a mouse at...

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'Lusty' salute to Navy pioneers

THE flagship of the Royal Navy, HMS Illustrious, steamed majestically around the coast of Kent on its way to a royal reception.

Setting out from Portsmouth, the 22,000-tonne aircraft carrier headed out into the English Channel and rounded Dungeness before sailing past Dover, around Thanet, past the Isle of Sheppey and under the bridge at Dartford before mooring off Greenwich.

The cruise formed part of the celebrations marking 100 years of naval aviation – the service acquired its first airship in 1909.

Guest of honour on board for a special dinner was Prince Andrew, the Duke of York, who was joined by defence secretary John Hutton.

During the voyage the Navy's head of aviation, Rear Admiral Simon Charlier, arrived on board at the controls of a Merlin helicopter.

"I love flying," he said. "And when you are an admiral, it's easy to get the controls."

The officer, who attended Dover College where he captained the sailing team, said: "This centenary is a big celebration. After two world wars and other conflicts, we are looking to the future and I know our proud traditions will be maintained."

HMS Illustrious is the nation's strike carrier, with Harrier jets and helicopters flying from its deck.

The ship is responsible for home defence and protecting air power abroad, having recently been deployed off both Iraq and Afghanistan.

She is also a major factor in the UK's response to international disasters, assisting humanitarian operations in Mozambique and evacuating civilians from danger zones.



FLY AND MIGHTY: Harrier on carrier's flight deck

When HMS Illustrious sailed around the south coast to mark the centenary of naval aviation, our reporter **NICK AMES** was on board to meet the crew who patrol the high seas for Queen and country

BRITISH SEA POWER: HMS Illustrious
Illustrious sailed from Portsmouth to London to mark the centenary of naval aviation



Pictures: NICK AMES

The ship – known affectionately as 'Lusty' by her crew – came into service in 1982 and is due to be retired in the next decade and replaced by two 'super carriers', the 63,000-tonne Queen Elizabeth II and Prince of Wales.

"A lot of people don't really know what ships do," said Sub-Lieutenant Matthew Winwood, from Gillingham, who is training to be a mine clearance diver.

Lieutenant Matthew Winwood, from Gillingham, who is training to be a mine clearance diver.

"After all, they are usually out at sea. This is a chance for people to get a good look at us as we sail past the coast."

The captain of Illustrious is Ben Key, whose grandfather fought at the Battle of Jutland in the Great War. Capt Key, whose grandmother is from Canterbury, explained his role.

"I have the best job in the Royal Navy," he said. "My task is to take whatever I am asked

to do by the Commander-in-Chief and achieve it. I have to ensure all the potential, talent and energy among my crew is pointing in the same direction to achieve the goal we aim for."

Before embarking on her voyage, Illustrious



CAPITAL GAINS: Docklands and Canary Wharf provide an impressive backdrop for the carrier's arrival in London

was moored next to the Navy's newest warship, the Type 45 destroyer HMS Daring, the most advanced combat vessel in the world.

She then sailed south past the Isle of Wight where a Harrier jet piloted by Lt Paul Francis touched down on deck.

Sea King, Merlin and Lynx helicopters followed and were all on parade as the ship sailed through the Thames Barrier – with just a few feet of clearance each side – and arrived in London last Wednesday. For trainee officer Dan Howes, from Lydden, it was quite an experience.

"It is really my first time at sea," he said. "But I know what I want to do – fly Harriers. It must be an incredible buzz."

His friend and fellow trainee Dominic Savage, from Whitstable, said: "My father was in the Navy, as was my grandfather who fought in World War Two. I wanted to follow in their footsteps – and I'm glad I did."



BLADE RUNNER: A Lynx helicopter on Illustrious

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Award Winning Company

Sally's cool idea which makes summer special

ICE cream has evolved considerably in recent years.

The likes of Häagen-Dazs and Ben & Jerry's have taken the humble dish and elevated it to a whole new level of quality and accessibility.

Yet, as with so many things, just once in a while the mass-produced products find themselves eclipsed by something a little more, well, home grown.

And it is from Kent that one particular product has grown a reputation which seems to make it destined for national appeal.

As such, it fits perfectly our 2009 campaign encouraging our readers to support local growers, suppliers and producers, spearheaded by our

www.foodforkent.co.uk website.

Simply Ice Cream grew off the back of a successful catering business, an aspect of the overall package that proved such a hit with customers that they inundated caterer Sally Newall with demands for more.

Her home made recipe was proving a taste sensation and it quickly became apparent it was worth pushing as a business in itself.

The businesswoman started selling the ice cream through her local farmshop at Sellindge, near Ashford, in 2005. It started



SIMPLY THE BEST: Ice-cream maker Sally Newall

an incredible chain reaction. Six months later five more shops starting selling it; then 15 in 2007; and now it's stocked in 65 locations in and around Kent, landing a host of awards, and, more recently, securing a distribution deal to be stocked in Kent outlets

of the upmarket supermarket chain Waitrose. Just to enhance its proposition further, celebrity TV chef James Martin used the honeycomb variety on his BBC show Saturday Kitchen – and declared it the "best bought ice cream available".

What's more, it uses as many locally produced flavours and fruits as possible.

Mrs Newall said: "We make it by hand. Traditionally, ice cream is made by skinned milk powders and water and they can pump quite a lot of air in. So we've tried to make it like it used to be made.

"We use double cream, milk and sugar and fresh fruit. They are as natural as possible. The fruit is all from Kent when we can get it, – so last year we did strawberry, cherry, blackcurrant – and we try to source things as locally as possible.

"If we make it ourselves we know what goes into it. There are no additives or preservatives, which is at the heart of our ethos. We try to avoid that where possible."

Mrs Newall was brought up in Kent and apart from a five-year stay in Australia, has lived in the same area of the county. The Simply Ice Cream business is based in the village of Bonnington, near Ashford.

"I am surprised at how it has taken off," Mrs Newall said. "With all small businesses there are peaks and troughs and our business plan has always been to double our turnover year on year, which we have managed, but there are still some moments where I wonder what am I doing."

After clinching the Waitrose deal, talks are now under way aimed at taking the product across the UK, spearheaded by its hugely popular Honeycomb Crunch variety.

Cherries on the cake

A SPECTACULAR array of cherry blossoms greeted children visiting Doddington Gardens for the launch of a walk celebrating some of the county's finest fruit.

Pupils from Lynsted School were treated to a cream tea at the Produced in Kent event, which unveiled the cherry-inspired route as a taster for an expected bumper harvest.

Produced in Kent is supporting our campaign and our www.foodforkent.co.uk website. The new 36 mile circular walk runs from Doddington church, following footpaths, quiet lanes and a mix of traditional and commercial orchards which will ripen in July. Produced in Kent is creating a brochure to tie in with its Cherry Ripe trail which will feature details of the firms selling the cherries to be found along the walk.

Julie Monkman, manager of Produced in Kent, said: "We've all heard of the benefits of eating five and day and consuming more superfoods and Kent can stand proud and shout loud about its own super fruit. There is evidence that food grown, picked and consumed locally retains more of its natural goodness and cherries are packed with antioxidant vitamins A and C."

Visit www.producedinkent.co.uk for more information about Produced in Kent and the cherry walk.



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yourmaidstoneschools



Winning designs for summer fun

■ BY ANNA WHITE

THREE artistic youngsters have won a competition to have their work displayed on posters and programmes for their school summer fair.

The aim of the competition at Leeds and

Broomfield CofE Primary School, in Maidstone, was for pupils to create an eye-catching design to help promote the event.

All the entered work was judged by local artist and school governor Antonia Graham, who picked the three winners.

The winning pieces belonged to Alice Chapman, nine, Bronte Mitchell, eight, and ten-year-old Anthony Reynolds.

Alice chose to draw various stalls and attractions being held during the fair, including a bouncy castle and quad bikes.

Bronte also designed a colourful poster but her work featured people holding up a 'Summer Fayre' sign.

Anthony chose a different approach and created a brochure encouraging people who are "bored of weekends" and "have nothing to do" to come along to the event.

Mrs Graham said: "The designs were all really good. It was difficult to choose a winner but these three won through because they were all eye-catching and colourful."

Leeds and Broomfield head teacher, Steve McGill, said: "It's great for the children to get involved in the summer fair and this is just one of the ways they take part."

The event will be held at the school on Sunday, June 14, and promises to be a fun day out for all the family.

There will be various activities and stalls, plus a gyroscope, ski simulator, and a beer and Pimms tent for the parents.

A toddler section will also be available during the event.

The fun starts at noon and will go on until 3pm, and everyone is welcome.

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WINNING BY DESIGN: from left, Alice Chapman, Bronte Mitchell and Anthony Reynolds with their entries

BREAK TIME

Ambassadors taste success of college

A STUDENT-run restaurant treated some of the county's ambassadors to a two-course feast of Kentish produce when they visited their campus.

Nearly 30 members of the Kent Ambassadors joined MidKent College's senior leadership team and governors for the luncheon at the college's Galley Restaurant at the Oakwood Park campus, in Maidstone, on April 28.

The meal, made entirely from Kent-produced ingredients, was fully prepared and served by the college's hospitality and catering students.

The ambassadors' group brings together key people from various sectors to raise Kent's profile and promote economic growth within the county.

The ambassadors' enthusiasm was evident at the lunch as they were keen to hear about the current and future developments at the college and the benefits for those living in the Maidstone area.

Chair of the Kent Ambassadors, Bobby Neame, of Britain's oldest brewery, Shepherd Neame, said: "We are delighted

to have been invited here to see what MidKent College has to offer the many peoples of Kent.

"The college itself is incredibly important in helping us to recover our ailing economy and it offers vital opportunities for a great many young people, adults and employers alike."



JUST DESSERT: Food preparation and cooking student Priti Maden serves up a Kentish treat

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yourmaidstoneblogger

Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in and around Maidstone...

Gurkha darling Joanna would be absolutely fabulous as PM

I KNOW it's not just me but I can't help echoing a call that has been resonating across Britain for the past week or so.

Joanna Lumley for Prime Minister!

What she has done for the Gurkhas – put their case so eloquently and passionately to the highest authority in the land – she could do for the rest of us.

No more panics over swine flu, expense-grabbing and second homes scandals with Prime Minister Lumley.

Her seemingly endless list of virtues would ensure she would be forgiven anyway – at least by the male half of the population.

She may be past her New Avengers era youth but she still has the blonde tresses, willowy figure and ability to look sexy while brandishing a kukri. But that's not all.

She knows how to play the political game.

Her address to Gordon Brown says it all, "Now I feel we have got to the head man,"

Joanna said after her meeting. "The man at the top, the leader of our entire nation."

At a time when Gordon has very few friends – how he must have loved hearing that.

Flattery will get you everywhere when it comes to playing the political game, and laid on by an attractive woman it will certainly work wonders. But it is also her essential "goodness" at a time when so much of politics, the media and just about everything else is desperately cynical, which is so appealing.

Whether it be fronting travel shows where her enthusiasm, way with people and total lack of condescension set her apart from most other presenters or petitioning for Compassion in World Farming by taking piglets to Parliament, she manages to strike the right chord.

And what about her experience of life?

Compared with all who sit in Parliament and have made a career of politics she has it in abundance. A Bond girl in On Her Majesty's Secret Service, battling the country's enemies assisting a man armed only with a bowler hat

and another with the worst taste in ties ever on screen in the New Avengers, or cutting a swathe through the fashion business in Absolutely Fabulous – what can compare?

Oh, and a spot of time travel in Sapphire and Steel, which was a show I don't think anyone but me ever watched.

But it all adds up to someone who will bring colour, honesty and fun to Parliament.

Above all she is essentially English – with a slight schoolgirl manner to go with her undoubted sophistication.

The Gurkha campaign has been an undoubted success and let's hope for the right result. But it's time for Joanna to move on to bigger things.

She'd have Barack Obama, Nicolas Sarkozy and the rest of the male world leaders eating out of her hand. Step forward Joanna Lumley – your country needs you!

EDITOR'S NOTE: All blogs are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

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If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the acting editor, **Jon Coates**, on **01303 817048** or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Maidstone blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town

log-on to www.yourmaidstone.co.uk.

Write to The Editor, Yourmaidstone, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

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WHAT better way to enjoy a fun family activity than a night out bowling?

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Whether you are organising a treat for the kids or a special night out for you and a group of friends, AMF Bowling has packages to suit everyone.

There are six AMF Bowling centres across Kent in Ashford, Chatham, Gravesend, Maidstone, Margate and Whitstable, all of which offer great family entertainment with fully computerised bowling lanes and the latest in dining and amusements.

Open from 11am weekdays and 10am at weekends, AMF Bowling provides great service and a family-orientated leisure experience with fully automated scoring, Xtreme Bowling, and bumpers and ramps for the kids.

Providing something for everyone, there are TV screens for those wanting to keep up with the latest sports news and music, and bar and diner areas for refreshments.

For those who have worked up an appetite, the centres' adult and children's Bumper & Squeak menus offer a fantastic array of new dishes.

AMF Bowling also plays host to Xtreme Bowling, where ultra-violet lights illuminate the lanes, the balls glow in the dark and an array of lights "dance" in



time with the music – a great way to spice up your evening!

Whatever your requirements, AMF Bowling will help make it an unforgettable experience with our dedicated Lane Hosts, who will ensure everything is hassle free. The centres offer standard two game packages which include shoe hire, however, there are also a number of great deals available, including Unlimited Bowling at selected times.

For more information about AMF Bowling or to book a lane, see www.amfbowling.co.uk.

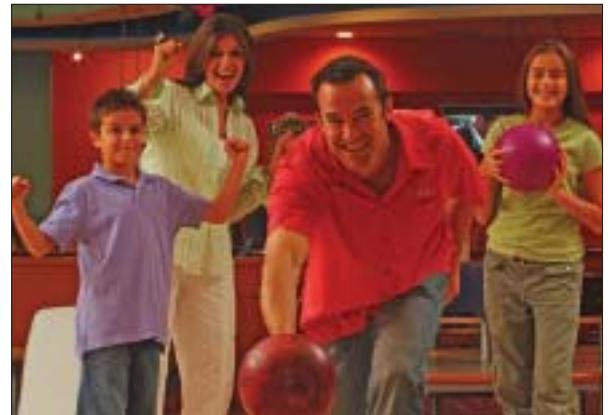
To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your e-mail address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to AMF Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR. The closing date is June 3, 2009.

Question: How many AMF bowling centres are there in Kent?

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yourletters

TALK TIME

CLARE STEWARD

The manager of florist Girl Flower talks about setting up her business and her racy Valentine's Day shop-window promotion which stopped shoppers in their tracks



Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

I am 30 years old this year and can't believe how quickly time has flown since I opened the shop in 2006. I re-trained as a florist after working within office environments and I was working from home doing flowers and working part time doing accounts when the shop next to my office came up. Within a month we had the shop fitted out and ready to go. We decided to open Mother's Day to give the business a kick-start. Within the first two years we won three awards in the Flower Shop of the Year Competition.

What makes Flower Girl different?

We are an independent florist so not part of a relay service, therefore we create bespoke designs for all occasions. My floral designers and I don't have set designs to work to and we love to let unique creativity flow. We also source local produce including locally grown tulips, daffodils and sunflowers. Girl Flower is a contemporary and modern florist.

Tell us about your Valentine's promotion.

We were brainstorming ideas to promote Valentine's and Serena, one of my floral designers, came up with a rather unusual window display. With the help of Cardio Stripeease providing a burlesque dancer and Bower Grove School providing a stage, we had a burlesque performer in our window leading up to Valentine's Day. It proved to be an effective way of getting people to notice us and many stopped to watch and give Miss Glory Pearl a round of applause.

• For more details see www.girlflower.co.uk.

YOUR LETTERS



Forget Jerseys, go with our own

I'm totally behind your Food for Kent campaign. Three cheers for it.

But only two and a half for Maidstone chef Richard Philips' recipe in the May 6 edition of Yourmaidstone.

Why Jersey New Potatoes?

There are many new potatoes in this area, and even if they don't quite match the best of the Jerseys, they are as good as, if not better, than some of the so-called Jerseys sold hereabouts.

Let us strive to make even more use of our Food for Kent!

Chris Berry, by email

Let's Leysdown the true aviation facts

I would take issue with the declaration that 2009 is the anniversary of naval aviation as per your article in Yourmaidstone last week.

The airship that Commander



COMMENT ONLINE TOO

NOT only can you use email and letters to respond to our stories, don't forget you can comment via our website too.

Beneath most stories on the www.yourmaidstone.co.uk website there is the facility to leave your comments on whatever YOU thought of the online article. To leave your remarks, simply click on the 'Add your comments' link and tell us what you think. And remember, www.yourmaidstone.co.uk is updated daily, bringing you the latest, breaking news from across Maidstone as well as our villages. We will include the best on these pages too – ensuring your comments reach the widest possible audience.

In addition, if you find your newsagent, supermarket or petrol station runs out of Yourmaidstone before you've picked up your copy, you never need to miss out. On www.yourmaidstone.co.uk you can access, for free, the full newspaper in our highly acclaimed e-editions.

Sue Eagles mentions was the 'Mayfly', an airship that never flew.

Naval aviation did not happen at Eastchurch until 1910 when the early aviators moved from Leysdown.

The latter is the cradle of aviation in Kent yet not once in your article did you mention the momentous events that took place there in May 1909.

Let us once and for all put aside the myth that Eastchurch

was flying in the UK began and get back to the basic history of aviation.

Robin Brooks, from Maidstone, by email

Time to march to General Election

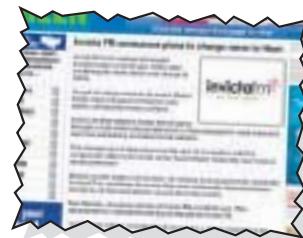
The recent fiasco over the Gurkhas' undeniable right to stay in this country shows – as if it need illustrating – the extreme paucity of ideas and imagination in this current Government.

It also showed without any doubt how out of date this current Government is when it comes to gauging public feeling.

It has become increasingly obvious that the MPs on the Labour benches have – in the main – just stopped listening to what people have to say.

This means that it is no longer fit to govern and a General Election is the only way forward.

Terry Knox, from Maidstone, by email



Invicta's heart wasn't in it anyway

It does not matter that Invicta FM is becoming Heart. After all, as far as I am concerned Invicta plays the same music in roughly the same order as Essex FM and

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Southern FM.

I think the three stations are all the same after 7pm until 6am and all day Saturday and Sunday.

Therefore I would say Invicta is not a local station in any sense anymore.

I feel Invicta FM went down once it became part of the Capital Group and later the merged G/Cap and now under the news owners Global – which also now owns Heart.

So no change, just go ahead.

Keith Hitchings, from Queenborough, on the Isle of Sheppey, comment posed on web story at www.yourmaidstone.co.uk



Churchill would have liked UKIP campaign

After reading about the launch of UKIP's Euro elections campaign in Maidstone, I want to get the message across that Winston Churchill wanted stronger ties between European Nations to prevent future wars.

What he didn't want was a Federal Union of Europe like the

United States of America, which is what we are heading towards.

He would never have given up power over important issues like immigration or defence to other countries.

Mohammad, from Gillingham, comment posted on web story at www.yourmaidstone.co.uk

Sun is shining on British economy

The news that this is going to be the hottest summer for a few years is one of the first good things I have heard for ages.

With so many people having to take holidays at home I am sure I am not alone in being pleased with this news.

I have cancelled my usual two weeks in the south of France for a trip to Devon.

If the weather is fine I may do the same next year – and if enough others follow suit what a boost for the UK economy.

Joanna Fisher, from Borough Green, by email

Don't trade with our earning hours

There is never a good time to mess around with people's ability to earn a living, but during this period of economic hardship it is a particularly daft thing to do.

So it is not a great idea for the

Trade Union Congress (TUC) to call for a limit on the working week of 48 hours.

Don't these socialist dinosaurs realise that in order to make ends meet people want to work as many hours as possible to get in as much cash as they can.

It's all very well for high paid union bosses to try and limit time people can earn in – they don't have to worry about being on the breadline.

For many people working extra hours is the only way they can get by.

Neil Gorman, by email

Key player is back where he belongs

Great news that Rob Key is back in the England squad – I was beginning to think he would never get the chance again.

He's a great batsman – but I'm glad he is not there as captain.

Two one day final defeats last season and relegation do not suggest he is one of the best leaders of a cricket team around.

But he is certainly a player who will get stuck in and not give his wicket away cheaply.

Let's hope he can continue on into the summer and give the Aussies plenty of problems.

And let's hope – if that is the case – Kent get an adequate replacement for his undoubtedly batting skills.

Maria Nelson, by email

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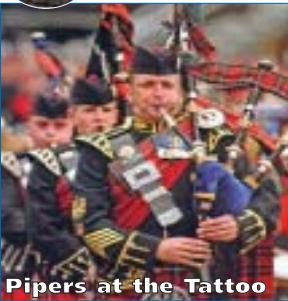
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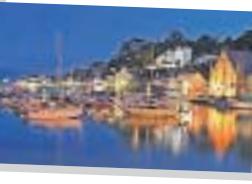
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Dream role is destiny

Craig Chalmers finally plays Joseph as West End musical goes on the road

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

Monday, May 25 to Saturday, May 30
Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells 

AFTER entertaining millions of television viewers in Any Dream Will Do, Craig Chalmers is finally playing his dream role.

Chalmers was among the aspiring actors who competed to win the lead role in Andrew Lloyd Webber's Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.

Facing stiff competition, Chalmers made it to the seventh show of the series, winning fans with his impressive performances and the fun edge he brought to Joseph's personality.

He was beaten to the prize by Lee Mead, but he is now delighting audiences all over the country in this touring production of the hugely popular musical.

Based on the Biblical story about a favourite son who is presented with a 'coat of many colours', the show started out as a short school performance in 1968. Over the years it was developed before being presented at the Edinburgh Festival in 1972, though it did not reach Broadway for another 10 years.

The show seemed to receive a new lease on life when an expanded version opened in London in 1991, with former Neighbours actor and pop star Jason Donovan in the lead role. Other stars to have played Joseph include television presenter Philip Schofield and Stephen Gateley of Boyzone fame.

The captivating story follows the adventures of Joseph, one of 13 sons and a dreamer with the ability to interpret his visions.

When it appears that these dreams signal Joseph's destiny - that he will rule over the others - his brothers become jealous of the amazing coat presented to him by their father.

Together they fake Joseph's death and break the terrible news to their father, while in reality they have sold



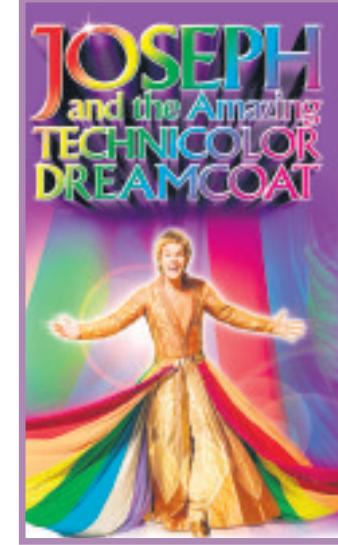
him as a slave and he is taken to Egypt to serve the rich Potiphar.

A misunderstanding with Potiphar's wife sees Joseph thrown in jail, but the Pharaoh hears of his ability to interpret dreams and releases him from prison. When Joseph predicts a period of great famine for Egypt, he is put in charge of emergency preparations and becomes the most powerful man in the land.

But the threat of crisis brings his traitorous brothers back into his life, begging for help from the boy they no longer recognise.

With unforgettable songs such as Any Dream Will Do and Close Ev'ry Door To Me, this is a colourful musical that will entertain the family.

Casting is subject to change and a different actor will play Joseph in the Wednesday matinee and 2pm Saturday performance. To book tickets call 01892 530613/532072 or go to www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.



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BUG LOVIN'

Friday to Sunday, May 15-17
The Hop Farm, Paddock Wood

A FULL throttle weekend awaits car fans as Bug Lovin, the South East's largest Volkswagen festival, comes to The Hop Farm.

Visitors will see some of the UK's rarest VW bugs, along with the country's best cars and campervans.

With live music, demonstrations and fun activities

for the kids, visitors should enjoy a brilliant weekend among the bugs.

The highlight of the music programme will be an appearance by Inspiril Carpets frontman Tom Hingley, who will perform the band's classic hits and songs from their new album.

VW car and camper clubs from around the country will compete to win the coveted Bug Lovin Best Club Stand Award. More impressive specimens can be seen in the

indoor Safari Jungle, including a rare special edition model, one of only 5,000 ever built.

Advance tickets cost £8/£4 or £20 for families of four.

For those who would like to make a weekend of it, the Hop Farm has 300 camping pitches available.

Advance weekend camping tickets cost £20/£10 or £40 for families, including admission to the show. To book call 01622 870821 or visit www.thehopfarm.co.uk.

PAUL MERTON'S SILENT CLOWNS

Friday, May 15
Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells

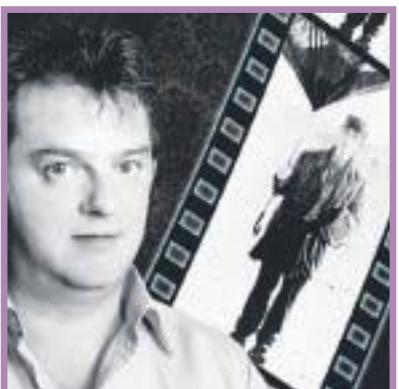
PAUL Merton takes a break from clowning around to present a show about his heroes.

Following the success of his BBC television series, Merton is sharing his enthusiasm for silent clowns and giving audiences the rare chance to see classic films on a big screen.

The first half will comprise Merton introducing clips from the films of Charlie Chaplin, Harold Lloyd and Laurel and Hardy. After the interval, the audience can revel in a screening of Buster Keaton's feature-length comic masterpiece, Steamboat Bill Junior. The film features a famous scene in which the side of a building collapses on Keaton, who narrowly avoids injury by stepping into an open window frame.

The films will be accompanied by world-renowned pianist Neil Brand.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost



£14.50 for adults and £9.50 for children, with a second child half-price and concessions available. To book call 01892 530613/532072 or visit www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.

HOO-HAH CONSPIRACY

Friday, May 15
Hazlitt Arts Centre, Maidstone

ESCAPE the normality of everyday life and plunge into the mysterious world of The Hoo-Hah Conspiracy...Secret Cabaret!

Described as a cross between The Rocky Horror Show and The Mighty Boosh, the show should provide an evening to remember in the Hazlitt Arts Centre's Fourth Wall.

The audience will meet a variety of weird and wonderful characters, as they experience the show's off-the-wall comedy and take part in some audience participation.

The show is produced by Hoo-Hah Productions, based at The Maidstone Studios, and features music by the JPL World Music Award-winning band, The Hoo-Hah



Conspiracy. It has been performed at the Bakehouse Theatre and the Rosemary Branch Theatre in London and was a sell-out success at the Queen's Theatre in Essex.

Each audience member will receive a free vodka, gingerbread man and CD and a

Hoo-Hah Conspiracy member's badge. For more information about the show visit www.thehooahahconspiracy.co.uk.

The show starts at 8pm and tickets cost £8.50. Book online at www.hazlittarts-centre.co.uk or call 01622 758611.

MAIDSTONE LEISURE

Children invited to find fair's missing animals

CHILDREN are invited to help support Noah's Ark at this year's summer fayre at The Friars of Aylesford Priory.

There will lots of animals at the event on Sunday, June 21, but children are being asked to paint pictures of the missing creatures.

For details contact Ross Friday on 07855 252747 or email events@thefriars.org.uk.

Shop 'till you drop at showground event

SHOPAHOLICS will be in heaven this weekend with The Shopping Experience at the Kent Showground.

Shoppers will find lots of great products for the family and home at the largest indoor event of its kind in Kent.

The show runs from 10am to 5pm on Saturday and 10am to 4pm on Sunday. Admission is £2. Call 01795 844449 or visit www.shopping-experience.co.uk.

Classmates reunited to sounds of schooldays

CATCH up with old friends at Beluga Bar with Maidstone Schools Reunited.

The venue in Bank Street is holding weekly reunion nights until October, with DJs spinning the hits from the appropriate school years. Tomorrow night's event is for those who left the following schools between 2000 and 2002: Astor of Hever School, Aylesford School, Oldborough Manor School and Senacre Technology College.

Local talent promises night of great music

HEAD down to The Grey Lady Music Lounge in Tunbridge Wells tonight for another great line-up of local talent.

Paul Dunton and Guests features performances by Tim Connolly, James Medhurst, Joanne Louise Parker and headliner Jo Hook. The event starts at 7.30pm and admission costs £5. Go to www.myspace.com/paulduntonandguests or www.thegreylady.co.uk.

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Julie Maddocks checks out Produced in Kent's cherry trail. Search 'cherry'

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WOMEN seeking men

SWEET DEBS

Hopeful, happy, shy girl, 22, loves all the normal stuff about life, searching for a mature guy, 24-39, for loving friendship/happiness. Box 880373

SINGLE DADS WELCOME

Lovely single mom, 23, cuddly and curvy, 5ft6, blonde and blue-eyed, like a drink, animals, reading, cinema, looking for honest, trustworthy and caring male. Box 451294

MATCH OF THE DAY!

Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 5ft2, a woman who loves football! Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494

NOT YOUR BROWN-EYED GIRL, BUT...

Blue eyed brunnette, 27, 5ft1, loves films, watching, darts, pool, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105

GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

Sociable girl, 28, loves pubs, social drinks, meeting new people & more, seek similar male, 58-62, for a lasting relationship. Box 448756

GIVE AND TAKE IN LOVE

Loving loyal female, 30, blue eyes, brown hair, seeking LTR with male 30-35, 5ft+, baggag, in the Maidstone area. Box 448471

SEEKING MR DARCY

Warm, kind and sincere woman, 31, lots of love and loyalty for the right person, seeking honest genuine man with a good heart. Box 451004

HAPPY SHOPPER

Easygoing female, 32, enjoys shopping, football, eating out, cosy night in, WLTM loving, caring white male, 35-47; for long-term, loving relationship. No time-wasters. Box 442414

CARING, CONSIDERATE, HOPEFULLY YOURS

Lovely young lady, 33, 5ft8, cuddly larger build, single mum, seeking kind, caring, honest, genuine man for fun, friendship, hopefully more. Box 450371

HORSES FOR COURSES...

Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5ft2, blonde likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013

FIT FOR FUN

Petite dark-haired girl, 33, 5ft, fit, loves badminton, cinema and more, searching for an active man, with heart and soul. Box 881047

SOUND GOOD?

Hello I'm 35, kind, caring and non-smoking, enjoy cooking, cinema, music, dining in and out, looking for that special someone to enjoy a relationship. Box 447959

GALLOP AHEAD!

Maidstone-based woman, 36, 5ft5, slim, blue eyes, I'm caring, honest and have 4 children, I enjoy drives and horse riding and WLTM honest, reliable man. Box 451311

LIVING IT

Fair-haired female, 35, 5ft, loves the gym, pubs, nights out and fine company, searching for fun blonde, for life, love and laughter. Box 881011

HISTORIC MEETING?

Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 446093

LOVE TO LOVE YOU

Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102

PERHAPS PERHAPS

Fun, bubbly, outgoing blonde, late 30s, down-2-earth, with GSOH, searching for tall, genuine fella, for fun, friendship and more? Box 451385

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WISHFULLY YOURS
Easygoing female, 37, 5ft2, brown hair, slim, looking for honest, caring male with GSOH, for friendship, leading to more. Ashford. Box 449915

LOOKING FOR A LOVING CHAP

Ashford-based woman looking for an honest, friendly, caring and loving man. I have two kids and enjoy the usual things in life. Box 446985

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

Good looking woman, 37, 5ft2, brown hair/eyes, seeking for new friends and hopefully someone special. Box 446309

ON THE LOOKOUT FOR LOVE

37yr old female, 2 kids, slim, brown hair and eyes, 5ft2, looking for a caring, loving, honest and trusting male to be my someone special. Box 446552

CHARM ME

Tall, blonde Russian girl, 42, from St Leonards, searching for single and sincere man for friendship and more. Box 451019

PROFESSIONAL

Fun bubbly sex black female, 42, outgoing, positive, fun-loving, seeks charming male to have fun and enjoy life with. Box 447444

MAYBE YOU'RE THE ONE?

Hi I'm Mandy, chocolate brown hair, blue eyes, 48, seeking human male (preferably) for nights out, socialising, clubbing, meals, lots of laughs and much more. Box 437489

ALONG THE SHORE

Recently divorced woman, 43, 5ft3, slim, hard-working, fun-loving, likes life, looking for a really nice and trustworthy guy for a relationship. Hastings Box 451469

A WARM HEART AND GSOH

Lovely bubbly mum, 43, 5ft6, green eyes, dark hair, medium build, loves salsa dancing, new things, bowling, quiet nights in...looking for a caring and honest male. Box 488090

SWING THIS WAY

Sweet girl, 43, 5ft2, brown hair/eyes, nurse, searching for active man, for clubs, good times. Box 451028

LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL

Good-looking Brunette from Kent, 43, 5ft10, likes bowling, eating in/out etc. Looking for a good-looking guy, 35-45, with GSOH for friendship/relationship. Box 450344

LOOKING FOR LTR

Single mom, petite, 44, brown hair/eyes, looking to share my life with a nice, man, a Russian man would be great! I like cinema, pubs, music. Box 451373

TLC ON OFFER FOR THE RIGHT PERSON!

Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeking genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666

SEIZE THE DAY

Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeking genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666

MEND A BROKEN HEART

Simple mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for hopefulness - no time wasters! Box 980903

CUTE AS CAN BE

Cute, single mum of 4, 38ys old, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship or possibly romance. Box 487983

ENTHUSIASM ENCOURAGED!

Lovely pretty bio-busted lady, 39, medium build, 5ft5, lots of energy! likes the gym, reading, new experiences! seeking nice man for potential exciting relationship! Box 446724

BLONDE AMBITION

Bubbly, cuddly blonde single mum, 39, 5ft6, likes cars, reading, pubs, cosy nights in, having a laugh, looking for that right male for LTR. Box 905161

A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE

Lovely glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys the theatre, music and eating out. WLTM a professional, loving and tactile chap for a relationship. Box 442551

THE SIMPLE THINGS...

I like reading/writing, going out, music, friend, genuine, honest chap; I'm a 40y old woman who enjoys the simple things in life. Box 448542

TIME TO LIVE AGAIN

Lovely 40yr old mum, average build, brown hair, blue eyes, 5ft2, and GSOH... would like friendship and maybe more with the right man. Box 880149

PERHAPS PERHAPS

Fun, bubbly, outgoing blonde, late 30s, down-2-earth, with GSOH, searching for tall, genuine fella, for fun, friendship and more? Box 451385

JOINED AT THE HIP

Sociable petite girl with great SOH, 40, blonde, sociable, love football! Looking for fun guy with great SOH for inseparable partnership. Box 889804

A FAIRY TALE ENDING

Easy-going blonde animal lover, 41, easy-going and facile, enjoys eating out, cinema and pubs, looking for a loyal, caring and funny man, 35-45. Box 451078

FANCY A DRINK?

Hi I'm Judith, 40, small, blonde, green eyes, 5ft, looking for my Mr Right, to have fun with and enjoy lasting relationship. Box 447986

FAUCY FAIRY TALE

Spiritual 44yr old female, enjoys gardening, cooking and walks on the beach, WLTM a warm, loving and caring male for friendship, maybe a LTR. Box 444803

MAID MARIAN!

Hi I'm Marian, petite, blonde, green eyes, 46, looking for my Mr Right, to have fun with and enjoy lasting relationship. Box 447986

LOVING IT LARGE

Easy-going blonde animal lover, 41, easy-going and facile, enjoys eating out, cinema and pubs, looking for a loyal, caring and funny man, 35-45. Box 451078

SOUL GOOD?

Hi I'm Lynne, 46, 5ft4, dark hair/eyes, loves the beach, travel, good food, seeking a soulful, genuine white male with GSOH for a fun filled friend-relationship. Box 449186

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?

Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seafood. Box 444836

CHARM ME

Tall, blonde Russian girl, 42, from St Leonards, searching for single and sincere man for friendship and more. Box 451019

PROFESSIONAL

Fun bubbly sex black female, 42, outgoing, positive, fun-loving, seeks charming male to have fun and enjoy life with. Box 447444

MAYBE YOU'RE THE ONE?

Hi I'm Mandy, chocolate brown hair, blue eyes, 48, seeking human male (preferably) for nights out, socialising, clubbing, meals, lots of laughs and much more. Box 437489

ALONG THE SHORE

Recently divorced woman, 43, 5ft3, slim, hard-working, fun-loving, likes life, looking for a really nice and trustworthy guy for a relationship. Hastings Box 451469

A WARM HEART AND GSOH

Lovely bubbly mum, 43, 5ft6, green eyes, dark hair, medium build, loves salsa dancing, new things, bowling, quiet nights in...looking for a caring and honest male. Box 488090

SWING THIS WAY

Sweet girl, 43, 5ft2, brown hair/eyes, nurse, searching for active man, for clubs, good times. Box 451028

LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL

Good-looking Brunette from Kent, 43, 5ft10, likes bowling, eating in/out etc. Looking for a good-looking guy, 35-45, with GSOH for friendship/relationship. Box 450344

LOOKING FOR LTR

Single mom, petite, 44, brown hair/eyes, looking to share my life with a nice, man, a Russian man would be great! I like cinema, pubs, music. Box 451255

CHARM ME

Tall, blonde Russian girl, 42, from St Leonards, searching for single and sincere man for friendship and more. Box 451019

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ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?

yourmaidstonemusic

Choose top ten acts for farm festival

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

BRAVE festival chiefs are giving music fans the opportunity to choose ten Kent bands to play at the Lounge on the Farm weekender – in the You Say They Play online competition.

The contest – link below – allows web-users the chance to vote for their favourite acts from across the county.

The top ten will be given slots on the Merton Farm festival's main stage.

While I admire the Lounge organisers' trust in the noble pursuit of people power, voting and democracy, it's important to remember that these same rights saw Steve Brookstein win the X Factor.

Lesson being – the people don't always get it right.

But for now, KOS Media is embracing You Say They Play.

L O T F 's Matt Gough said the competition arose from an huge abundance of choice.

"There are now just too many bands of a high quality within Kent that we just don't know who to, or how we could, choose between them anymore," he said.

"So this year, in order to bring the local bands that the ticket-holder wants to see, we are launching a brand-new competition to find the hottest ten bands in Kent to play on our main stage.

"We are anticipating around 200 local bands will register, with the potential voting numbers to reach 10,000.

"This is a sizeable event for the



BANDS ON THE RUN: CWB, above, and Felix Fables, left, are among the acts vying for your vote to play at the LOFT

local music scene within Kent. Local radio station CSR FM has signed up as media partner

likes of Edwyn Collins, The Horrors, Mr Scruff, Billy Childish and The Musicians of the British Empire, The Aliens and Dub Pistols.

For more on You Say They Play visit www.yousaytheyplaylotf.co.uk/home.htm

CURRENT TOP TEN

- 1 Hooligan Village
- 2 CWB
- 3 French Crops
- 4 The Sketch
- 5 Midnight Carnival
- 6 The Facades
- 7 Simian Artillery
- 8 The ColourSound Experiment
- 9 Felix Fables
- 10 Neon Skies

UPLOAD YOUR MUSIC VIDEOS TO BROADCAST ON OUR WEBSITE @ yourkenttv.co.uk



NO MISTAKE: Live @ Zebra Bar rocks out to the sound of My Last Mistake



KITTED OUT: Songstress Lucy Kitt wows the crowd with Laurel Canyon



KENT UNSIGNED GIG CHART

- 1 CWB – 28/5, Beercart Arms, Canterbury
- 2 The Semantic – 30/5, The Star, Gillingham
- 3 Silence Broken – 20/6, Ivy Leaf, Sheerness
- 4 Directions – 24/6, Zebra Bar, Maidstone
- 5 Poppy Wilson – 3/7, Corn Exchange, Maidstone



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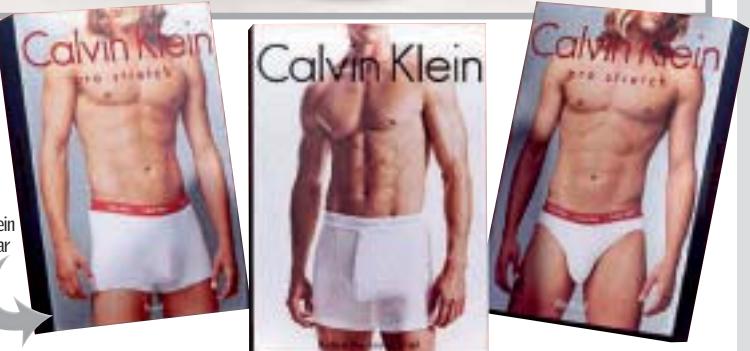
Butterfly by Matthew Williamson dress, reduced to £10.80 from £18; Boy's Rocha Little Rocha T-shirt reduced to £4.20 from £7; shorts, reduced to £4.80 from £8

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MAIDSTONE SHOPPING**Bite into fresh, seasonal goodies at the market**

SHOPPERS can find delicious produce and beautiful crafts at The Pantiles in Tunbridge Wells this weekend.

On Saturday there will be fresh seasonal foods on offer from local producers at the farmers' market, while on Sunday artisans will be displaying original crafts for sale at the outdoor craft market.

Both events will take place in the Upper Pantiles, from 10am to 4pm. For more details about upcoming events see www.thepantilesonline.co.uk.

Seriously Good chef to sign copies of his book

CELEBRITY chef Phil Vickery will be signing copies of his new cookery book at Bluewater next week.

The Ready Steady Cook and This Morning star was born in Folkestone and has won Michelin stars for the quality of his food. He will be signing copies of Seriously Good! Gluten-Free Cooking at Waterstone's from 6pm on Thursday, May 21.

The book is published by Kyle Cathie this Thursday, priced at £19.99.

Enjoy shopping on the seas with ferry offers

SET sail for some great deals with P&O Ferries' recession-beating offers.

This month Jacob's Creek Shiraz Rosé, Semillon Chardonnay and Shiraz Cabernet are £15 for six bottles on services to France, Belgium, Holland and Spain.

Dover to Calais fares are offered from £10 for a non-landing 'Car Park Shopper' service. Alternatively, a day trip ticket for a car and passengers costs from £25.

For more information call 08716 646464 or visit www.poferry.com.

You can even look good when you're camping

PREPARE for the festival season by stocking up on essential beauty products from Barry M, Schwarzkopf and Clynol.

Look great even in the rain with Barry M's Extreme Black Waterproof Mascara (£5.95) and Intense Eyeliner Pens (£3.95), in six shades.

Liven up unwashed hair with Schwarzkopf Professional OSiS Dust (£10.45) and Clynol's Play With Me Powder Punch (£10.60). Call 01296 314000 for your nearest stockist.

Keeping down the cost of being a new parent

THERE is still time to stock up on parenting essentials with Asda's special baby and toddler event this week.

Until Sunday, parents can buy two four-packs of Pampers Baby Wipes for £9 and two Pampers Active Fit and Easy Up Jumbo Packs for £20. Shoppers can also buy a Graco Junior Car Seat, a Graco Teatime Highchair and a Hauck Sport and Recover Stroller, all priced just £25.

To order and see all the special offers, visit the website at www.asda.co.uk.

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EXCLUSIVE KOS MEDIA READER OFFER

Sand Bay Resort, Somerset**4 NIGHTS HALF BOARD**June 8 to 12; June 15 to 19; June 22 to 26
Tour **SB6****SELF DRIVE****£125****JUST FOR ADULTS**

Enjoy a summer holiday by the sea on the Somerset coast. Set in 17 acres of landscaped gardens near a long sandy beach, Sand Bay is a couple of miles from Weston-Super-Mare. Leisure facilities include an indoor swimming pool. Each evening there is entertainment featuring the Best of British comedy and tribute acts. Accommodation is in single-storey en-suite chalets with colour TV and tea/coffee tray. Sand Bay is a few minutes from Junction 21 of the M5, offering easy access from all over the country. As a self-drive visitor, you'll find Sand Bay is well-placed to visit a host of West Country attractions. The cities of Bath, Bristol & Wells are a short drive and offer a wealth of diversity from Brunel's steam ship, the SS Great Britain (in Bristol), the ancient Roman Baths (in Bath) and Britain's most beautiful cathedral (in Wells). There's plenty of unspoilt coastal scenery nearby, from the sandy beaches of Burnham and Weston Super Mare to the dramatic cliffs and coves of the Exmoor coast.

PRICE INCLUDES: 4 nights in a twin or double en-suite chalet
• 4 dinners & 4 breakfasts • Entertainment every evening

Isle of Wight Summer Holiday at Warner Norton Grange**4 NIGHTS HALF BOARD**Monday, July 13 to 17
Tour **NS7****SELF DRIVE****£269**

CAR FERRY INCLUDED

JUST FOR ADULTS**50P BAR**

Set among landscaped gardens, Norton Grange has a distinctly tropical feel. The resort overlooks the Solent and has a wide range of activities on offer, including a heated indoor pool, all-weather bowls, a fitness studio, archery, snooker, darts and more.

Live nightly entertainment includes cabaret and dancing with Warner's in-house entertainment team and visiting artists to add variety. We've added a 50p bar from 12 noon to 11pm every day for house beers & spirits, house wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers, tea & coffee. Accommodation is in en-suite chalets located near the entertainment and restaurant venues. All chalets have a colour TV and hospitality tray.

PRICE INCLUDES: 4 nights in a twin/double en-suite chalet
• 4 dinners & 4 breakfasts • 50p bar every day - from 12noon to 11pm - includes house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers, tea & coffee • Live cabaret entertainment • Self drive with car ferry included

Isle of Wight Christmas Party at Warner Norton Grange**3 NIGHTS ALL INCLUSIVE**Friday, November 27 to 30
Tour **NP11****SELF DRIVE****£179**

CAR FERRY INCLUDED

JUST FOR ADULTS**FREE BAR**

Enjoy an early taste of Christmas at our Isle of Wight Christmas Party at Warner Norton Grange. You'll find a fun-filled party atmosphere with festive food and entertainment and we've included a **Free Bar** every day to help the party go with a swing. You'll enjoy the traditional Warner benefits of quality accommodation and a proper breakfast and 3-course dinner each day and live entertainment every evening.

PRICE INCLUDES: 3 nights in a twin/double en-suite chalet

- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts * lunch not included • Free bar every day - from 3.30pm to 11pm on Day 1 and 12noon to 11pm on subsequent days (not departure day) - includes house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers, tea & coffee • Festive food & live entertainment • Self drive with car ferry included



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ON GENERAL RELEASE

IS ANYBODY THERE? (12A)



Ten-year-old Edward lives in a sleepy retirement home run by his parents. His solitude is interrupted with the arrival of Clarence (Michael Caine), a retired magician who doesn't suffer children gladly.

GOATS OF GIRLFRIENDS PAST (12A)



Connor Mead (Matthew McConaughey) has a reckless attitude towards women. Then he sees the ghost of Uncle Wayne (Michael Douglas) who informs him he will be visited by three spirits.

HANNAH MONTANA - THE MOVIE (U)



Dragged back to her home town in Tennessee by her father, can Miley Stewart (Miley Cyrus) juggle her twin identities and avoid the paparazzi at a benefit concert fronted by Hannah Montana?

Screen beauty Michelle aims to age gracefully

■ BY SHEREEN LOW

HOLLYWOOD is known for tossing aside older actresses faster than you can say 'Lights, camera, action'. But for Michelle Pfeiffer, who turned 51 last month, the roles continue to come in.

"I started getting asked how it feels to age in Hollywood when I was 35. I think it's changing. There are more actresses now who have crossed that threshold," says Michelle.

Most recently, she has played a witch-queen in Stardust, a singing villainous mother in Hairspray and an ageing French courtesan romantically involved with a younger man (played by Rupert Friend) in Chéri, released last weekend.

"This is my third movie doing that recently, but it's always welcome," smiles Michelle.

"The older I get, the younger my leading men get, which is interesting because it was the opposite when I was younger."

In real life, Michelle is happily married to TV writer and producer David E Kelley (Ally McBeal, Boston Legal) and the couple have two children – adopted 16-year-old daughter Claudia and 14-year-old biological son John.

The actress took a four-year hiatus in 2003 to spend more time with her family when they moved away from Los Angeles.

"It got harder finding projects that didn't entail me leaving home for long periods of time during the school year, so we moved," she explains.

"It was a big transition, much bigger than I anticipated – actually quite overwhelming.

"The move kept me occupied and distracted from my work. After we settled in, I realised how long it had been and I started to miss it.



ACE PERFECT: Michelle Pfeiffer as Lea de Laval in Chéri

"I decided to come back to work and Hairspray was there, Stardust was there. It's been really fun and I've been lucky to have the opportunities I've had."

The star of films such as The Fabulous Baker Boys, Dangerous Minds and Batman Returns, where she played Catwoman, looks years younger than her age and isn't keen on cosmetic surgery to keep the wrinkles at bay.

VIEW THIS PREVIEW

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"Although the older you get, the harder it is to say never. It's easy to say that when you're 25," she says.

"I don't really object, I don't really care about plastic surgery one way or another. I suppose I object to bad plastic surgery, and too much of it is not a good thing."

Instead, she tries to maintain a healthy diet, although it's difficult to picture Michelle, who looks very slim in an elegant black dress and black Christian Louboutin heels, indulging in junk food.

Michelle's career spans nearly four decades and she has no plans to take it easy just yet.

"I've been working since I was 14, and I loved working from the moment I had my first job. I don't think I'll ever retire."

CHERI
Certificate 15

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- **Lesbian Vampire Killers 15**
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- **Student Film Night 18**
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- **In the City of Sylvia (En la ciudad de Sylvia) PG**
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yourmaidstonetimeout

YOUR TV REVIEW



Picture: KEN MACKAY

HOT STEPPERS: Diversity seem to be a good bet for winning popular show *Britain's Got Talent*

■ BY TOM BETTS

SNOG MARRY AVOID
BBC Three, 12.05am, Thursday
BRITAIN'S GOT TALENT
ITV1, 8.20pm, Saturday

IF there's a better reason to leave Britain this very instant than BBC Three's lamentable show *Snog Marry Avoid*, then I have yet to discover it.

Presented by Jenny Frost, formerly of *Atomic Kitten*, and a computer called POD, this is the kind of nonsense that makes you wonder why we pay our TV licence.

Each time we're faced with a selection of misfits who dress in an extreme, or inappropriate, manner.

Be that a fake tan-obsessed wannabe page three model, the cyber goth who "just wants to be different", or the recent self-declared "only male Barbie in Scotland" so orange he looked like he was hooked up to an intravenous drip filled with Tango...

The computer then gives them a make-under, not a make-over, to look more normal and presentable.

The results are always for the better, not that it seems to matter as the clothes and look are swept away by the subject who more often than not

decides it was better to go clubbing in a leotard with their bits hanging out.

This is often on as I drift off to sleep and has given me many nightmares. Perhaps time to stop on both my part and the BBC's.

I think it's fair to say the latest series of *Britain's Got Talent* has been a belter thus far.

Each week seems to foist a new star into the public eye.

Whether it's been the big story of Susan Boyle (now over 53 million YouTube hits for the original clip, and counting) or singing pizza delivery man Jamie Pugh, we have had a clutch of memorable TV moments.

The show has proved to be a huge draw once again and must now be a bigger asset to ITV than *The X Factor* because so many people seem to be able to relate to it.

It encapsulates the dreams of the elderly as well as the young and has become a genuine phenomenon.

For my money, dance act Diversity look like a good bet to go all the way this year. Their audition was spectacular and the guy who leads the troupe seems to already have an army of female fans who think he's swell, and he may well be.

Show six is on Saturday night – what new treats await?

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

THE demands of your social position are starting to wear on you. If you're the breadwinner, it may feel like you can never take a break for fear of financial collapse. Whatever your station in life, it's time to break out of your box. There's more to you than meets the eye.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

YOUR relationship status is giving you lots of angst. If you have a lover, your union isn't living up to your expectations. Perhaps one of you is outshining the other. An honest discussion is probably in order. If you are single, it may be because you've set your sights too high.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753

LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

YOU'RE tired of having to watch over a responsible adult. It's time to cut the apron strings, even at the risk of looking cruel. Enabling a romantic partner's neurosis is especially dangerous. Go to as many interviews as possible. You can talk your way into a prestigious company.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

YOUR moods are a roller-coaster ride, and no wonder. Someone close to your heart keeps sending conflicting signals. One minute they're fine, the next they're on the brink of collapse. They are playing you like a violin. Stop making yourself constantly available to their whims.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

EVERY time you hear the news, you go into a downward spiral. At times like these, it's important to remember you're getting only one side of the story. There is plenty of kindness in the world; it's just that it never makes the headlines. Expressing yourself clearly will help you avoid trouble.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763

GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

UNHEALTHY habits have a way of catching up on you. It may be time to revise your diet or step up your exercise regimen. By examining your motivations to neglect your physical health, you could turn a corner. Beware of pretending to know more than you do.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754

VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

YOUR overactive mind is causing you to lose sleep. There's no point overanalysing an emotional situation, you just have to walk away. The person is not prepared to find a workable solution. If you're suffering from heartache, this would be an ideal time to take a long distance trip.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

IT FEELS like your brain is on time delay. Instead of forcing yourself to pick up the pace, stop and take some emotional inventory. Have you been neglecting yourself in some way? If you have an office job, get into the habit of a walk on your lunch hour, or a run before or after work.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 19)

ACCUMULATING more debt is causing you to go into emotional free fall. You've got to start questioning why you're on a shopping spree. Linking your self worth to your economic health is a drastic mistake. Volunteering for a good cause can cause your confidence to come soaring back.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752

CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

IT feels like everybody is tugging on your sleeve, leaving you no time for fun. You simply have no time to spare. Maybe it's because you've overextended. Are you performing these duties out of necessity, or are you getting some sick satisfaction from being a martyr?

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755

LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

GOING against your beliefs could land you in trouble. Sure, it's fun going along with a wild person's suggestions, but at the end of the day, you can't believe all the destruction you've caused. Be especially careful about getting romantically involved with somebody who has a partner.

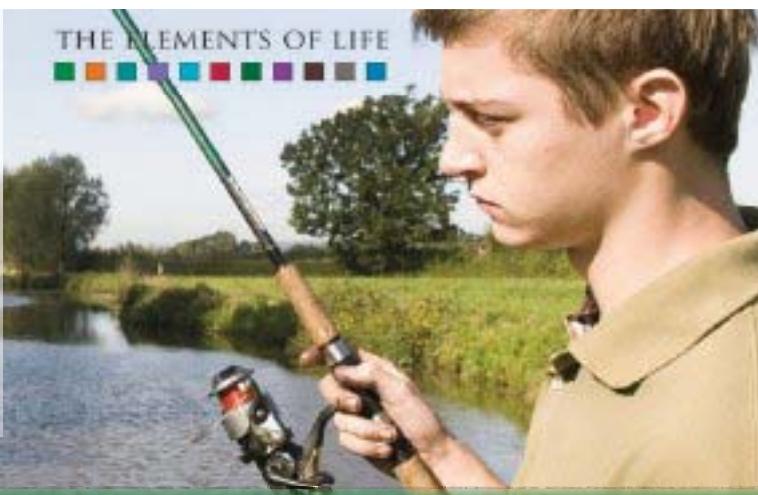
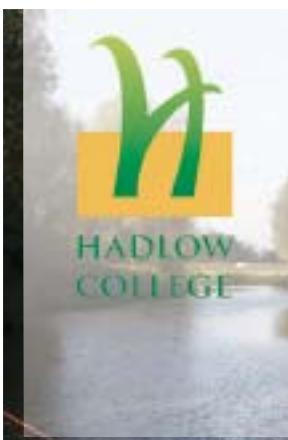
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

YOUR social life is getting busy, prompting you to wonder when you'll find any down time. The answer is never unless you make some changes. Stop accepting every invitation that comes your way. Above all, schedule solitary evenings so you can recharge your batteries.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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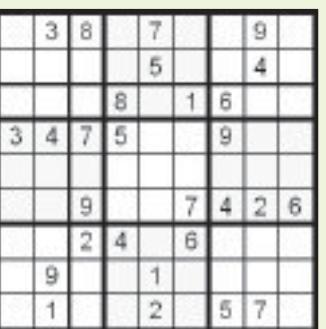
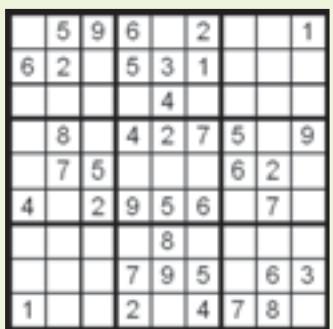
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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

EASY

MEDIUM

HARD



CRYPTIC CLUES

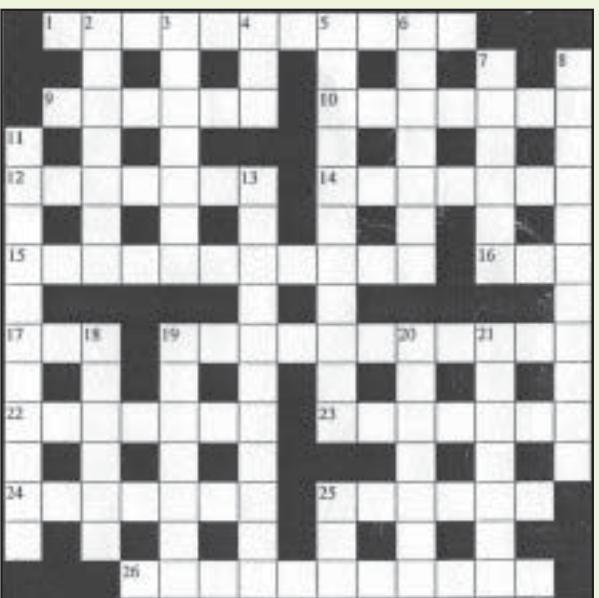
ACROSS

1 Ballet Daisy performed during French national holiday (8,3)
 9 I'm right in agreement, he was a hunter (6)
 10 Dateless dialogue rewritten for funeral orations (7)
 12 Be glad about said lady (7)
 14 Rocky height by landing-place in seaside resort (7)
 15 An airy exposure! (11)
 16 President somewhat warlike (3)
 17 Mesh at one time included (3)
 19 Target rebel suffering, too bad (11)
 22 One who perspires wearing it (7)
 23 A medical man involved in final thrash (7)
 24 Distress at cliff disaster (7)
 25 South American nut (6)
 26 May with pleasure include luminosity initially, that is what this gives

DOWN

2 An offer lady shortly made for African port (7)
 3 Public transport limitations (7)
 4 Young man of 50 now (3)
 5 Potentially shocking slippery customer (8,3)
 6 Splashed oil near wing-flap (7)
 7 Animal a US soldier catches out (6)
 8 Myra moved keyboard instrument onto old boat (4,7)
 11 Where motorist is found in a commanding position (7,4)
 13 Said too much it was not true (11)
 18 Start before green (3,3)
 19 Greek wine retains sparkle (7)
 20 Timothy gets contagious fear mostly from drums (7)
 21 Churlish expecting fall in Stock Market prices (7)
 25 Extra greeting? Not half perhaps (3)

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QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

1 Something of highest excellence (11)
 9 Piazza (6)
 10 Impossibly ideal (7)
 12 Speaking (7)
 14 Circus swing (7)
 15 Memory (11)
 16 Garden tool (3)
 17 Donkey (3)
 19 Jammed with people (11)
 22 Improve a photo perhaps (5,2)
 23 Chorus (7)
 24 Knotty (7)
 25 Excite (4,2)
 26 Subediting (US) (11)

DOWN

2 ___ mass (7)
 3 Skull (7)
 4 Devon river (3)
 5 Low-set two-wheeler (8-3)
 6 Cholera (anag.) (7)
 7 Advanced technology (2-4)
 8 Free from control (11)
 11 Eternal (11)
 13 Social gathering outdoors (6,5)
 18 Robust (6)
 19 Shakespearean character (7)
 20 Tendered (7)
 21 Coerce (7)
 25 Golf-peg (3)

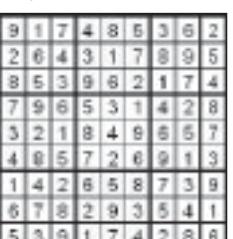
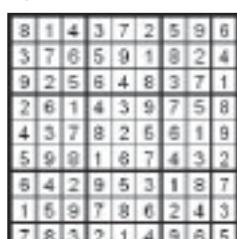
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No86

EASY

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HARD



Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No86

ACROSS: 1 Beforehand 6 Quid 9 Recap 10 Doz 11 Knot 13 Thumbnial sketch 14 Archival 16 Ingrid 18 Creche 19 Polyglot 22 Shrinking violet 24 Lynx 25 Thee 26 Padua 27 Drey 28 Short-range. **DOWN:** 1 Birett 2 Fitch 3 Republishing 4 Hideaway 5 Nozzle 7 Unnatural 8 Ditched 9 Skinny-dipper 15 Clearance 17 Jongleur 18 Castled 20 Tritrate 21 Eighth 23 Laden.

QUICK SOLUTION No87

12 Dragoon 25 Tote
 18 Study of the 20 Offered
 19 Independent 22 Everlasting 23 Gardener part
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 28 Fresh 24 Nodular 22 Total up 23
 29 Vining 14 Tapestry 15 Remembrance 16
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■ BY LIAM CREEDON

OFF the north-east tip of Scotland, Shetland raises hairs on the neck of any seasoned birdwatcher.

These barren spits of land are hemmed in by the raging North Sea and left almost treeless by harsh Arctic winds. But during spring and autumn, birds rarely seen in mainland Britain can turn up on Shetland.

Made up from some 100 islands, the Shetland archipelago stretches 70 miles towards the Arctic. It is quicker to fly from London to Milan than to Sumburgh, the islands' tiny airport.

The Scandinavian influence is profound, from the residents' sing-song accents to the local

Welcome to a twitcher's paradise

place names. Yell, Unst, Gutcher, Skaw and Noss sound more like the mating noises of amorous Vikings than islands or towns.

The capital, Lerwick, serves the vital fish and oil industries that dominate Shetland life.

In Lerwick's harbour we spied one reason why Shetland is renowned as a wildlife paradise. Bobbing alongside fishing boats was a pair of black guillemots – rare on the mainland but ten-a-penny on Shetland.

The land is magically free of the noise that dominates the mainland, with the fluting calls

of moorland birds and the mournful wailing of curlews creating a constant, tuneful backdrop.

After sampling locally-caught fish at haunted Busta House Hotel we headed by boat for Unst at Shetland's northern tip to Muckle Flugga – the UK's most northerly lighthouse.

The isolated rocky coast is a magnet for seabirds. Puffins whizzed past our tiny boat, while black guillemots, known locally as tysties, and razorbills clattered into the sea.

Back on dry land, we walked to the edge of the sea-cliffs on the Hermaness nature reserve

for a different perspective on Shetland's nesting seabirds.

The great skua is known to birders across the UK by its Shetland name – bonvie – the ASBO kid of the bird world.

We tried to work out the safe distance to stand to watch a female on her nest.

In seconds she turned a coal-black eye on us, screamed and launched off the ground. Suddenly the air was a rush of talons, feathers and the screams of terrified tourists.

We retreated to the cliff-edge to watch the more friendly puffins feeding their young.

"Ladies and gentlemen, killer whales!" said our guide, Brydon Thomason, drawing our attention to the vast, flat expanse of the North Sea beyond the cliff-edge.

Looking through Brydon's telescope, I could see about nine killer whales dipping and shying into the waves.

The sight was electrifying – to witness huge predators in their element was extraordinary, typifying what a trip to Shetland is all about.

We retreated to sample more local seafood, swilled down with Shetland beer from the Valhalla Brewery on Unst.

Tourism on Shetland feels like an after-thought, with a lack of quality restaurants and accommodation, but the incredible natural spectacle on offer makes this a world-class tourist destination in its own right.

FACT FILE: SHETLAND



Travel details

The Shetland Isles have a population of around 22,000. Located more than 200 miles off the north-east coast of Scotland, Shetland is closer to the Faroe Islands and is part of the division between the North Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.

Liam Creedon flew with Atlantic Airways, which operates a twice-weekly summer service (Friday and Monday) to Sumburgh from Stansted. Return fares this year started at £167.

He stayed at Busta House Hotel, in Brae – a waterside hotel dating back to 1588 – the former RAF radar station Saxa Vord and Bressay Lighthouse.

Reservations: Busta House Hotel (0180 652 2506 and www.bustahouse.com); Saxa Vord Resort (0195 771 1711 and www.saxavord.com).

Destination information: Visit Shetland on 0870 199 9440 and www.visitshetland.com



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PROPERTY NEWS

Who's online checking the cost of your home?

DESPITE tumbling house values, people across the UK are obsessed by the cost of real estate, according to a recent survey.

And the ready availability of property news across the internet is one of the ways people fuel their obsession.

Almost seven in 10 look at property online, even when they are not in the market to move house, the study found.

The poll also revealed 12 per cent of homeowners confessed they used the internet to check the value of property belonging to friends and neighbours.

On average, five per cent said they wanted to know what colleagues' homes were worth, too.

Those aged 25 to 34 were the most fixated on property prices, with eight in ten regularly looking at homes for sale even if they had no intention to buy.

They were also the nosiest age group, with more than one in six (17 per cent) checking the price of friends' homes and one in eight (13 per cent) investigating colleagues' properties.

In this age group, 63 per cent said they looked out of curiosity, while 29 per cent wanted to gauge a good time to move.

The survey of 1,399 subjects by an independent research company found on average people spent 55 minutes per month looking online at property.

The poll also found one in 10 logged on to see how their house was doing in investment terms.

HCA initiative aims to get investors onboard

THE Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) has set up a new initiative to encourage investors such as pension funds into the private rented sector.

The Private Rented Sector Initiative (PRSI) aims to provide an opportunity for low-risk investment.

It will target unsourced investors, such as overseas investors and pension funds, in a bid to "kick-start stalled schemes and lead to a significant increase in high-quality new homes for rent".

Sir Bob Kerslake, chief executive of the agency, said: "To date, achieving scale has been one of the main barriers to attracting institutional investors into the housing sector.

"We believe there is an opportunity now for the HCA to work with developers and housebuilders to offer a pipeline of projects for the PRSI, which could eventually result in a positive outcome for all stakeholders."



Homes more affordable for UK first-time buyers

■ BY NICK AMES

HOME affordability for first-time buyers – known as FTBs – has improved "substantially" since 2007, according to the Halifax review of the market.

This takes into account the prospects of people who are looking to join the first rung of the housing ladder in the next month or so.

The survey was released earlier this month and is seen as a key barometer of how the market is looking.

It examined the average earnings and the average cost of first-time homes in areas, dividing them up by local authority.

It found that the number of areas where the average price paid by an FTB was affordable increased to 21 per cent.

This compared with just six per cent in the third quarter of 2007.

Therefore the number of local authorities in the UK where housing was affordable to FTBs more than trebled in the last 18 months, with the house-price-to-earnings ratio now lower than it has been for six years, down 26 per cent since the summer of 2007.

The proportion of disposable income used to pay for a mortgage also decreased, which the Halifax attributed to falling house prices teamed with low interest rates.

Improvement

Martin Ellis, housing economist at Halifax, said: "There has been a marked improvement in housing affordability for potential first-time buyers in many parts of the UK over the past 18 months.

"This trend continued in the first three months of 2009. The significant reductions in house prices, relative to average earnings, has resulted largely from the decline in house prices since the autumn of 2007.

"As a result, housing is at its most affordable, on this key measure, for more than six years."

Despite the improvement in affordability, the number of FTBs is still at a very low level, according to the survey.

And although things are set to get better, according to analysts who have studied the recent trends, this may not be for some time.

Mr Ellis added: "Conditions in the housing market are likely to be tough during the rest of 2009 despite improvements in affordability.

"Increasing unemployment, low consumer confidence and the effects of the continuing dislocation of the financial markets on the availability of mortgage finance are all likely to exert downward pressure on the market.

"House prices are expected to decline again in 2009. Prospective first-time buyers should factor the likelihood of further house price falls into their calculations when deciding whether or not to buy."



ON THE UP: Falling house prices mean first-time buyers now have a good chance of getting on the property ladder

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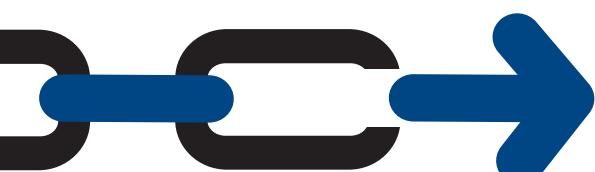


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A super three bedroom family home with gas central heating and double glazing. Other benefits include a double glazed conservatory. There is no stamp duty payable on this property.

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PROPERTY ADDRESS: 184 South Park Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 7AJ

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**MAIDSTONE £115,000**

A two bedroom lower ground floor apartment situated in the town centre. There are two good size bedrooms, lounge, kitchen and bathroom. This property is offered with no forward chain

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**MAIDSTONE £119,950**

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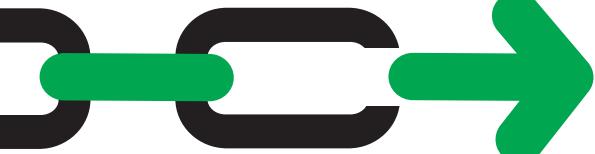
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£149,995

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Offers in excess of £155,000

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Offers in excess of £160,000

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£325,000

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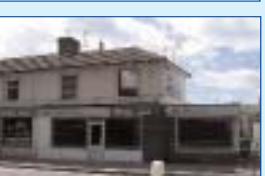
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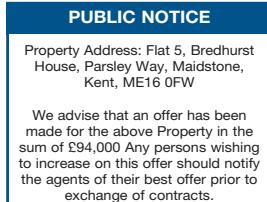
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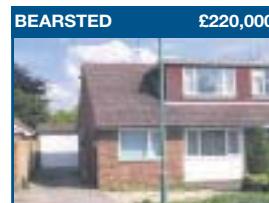
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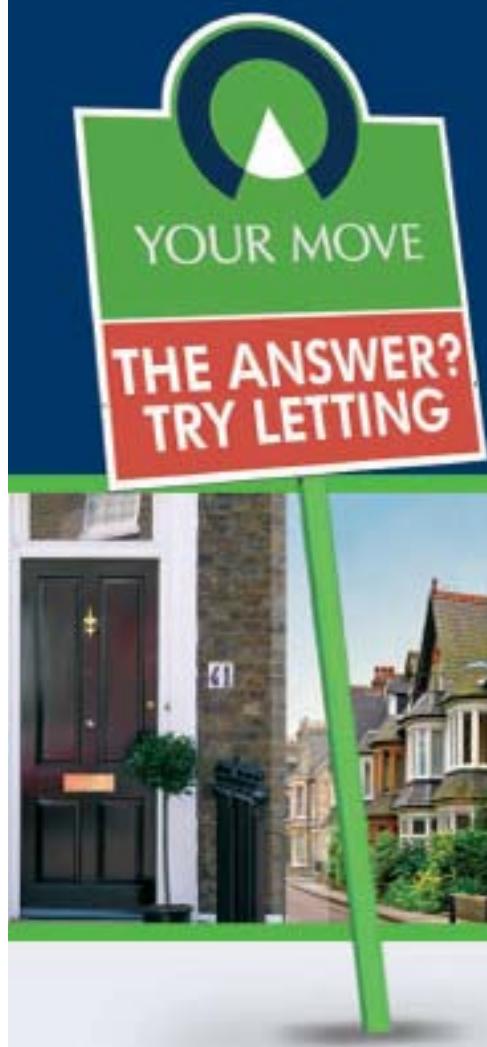
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MOTORS NEWS



Motoring icon plans a big 50th birthday party

MINI fans globally are celebrating the motoring icon's 50th birthday.

The very first car, a Mini Minor in Old English White, is on display at the original plant in Cowley, Oxford – home to the modern day Mini re-created by BMW. Cowley produced Minis from 1959 to 1968, before production of the original switched to Longbridge, Birmingham.

There will also be a birthday festival at the Silverstone race circuit from May 22-24, featuring a line-up of bands and other entertainment.



Big savings to be made with scrap happy deals

VAUXHALL – one the UK motor market's big hitters – has waded into the battle for scrappage deals.

On top of the Government-backed £2,000 grant available to buyers eligible to scrap their old car in exchange for a new one, Vauxhall is offering extra cash/cash-backs and zero per cent finance in certain cases. A British-built Astra Life 1.4 hatchback, for instance qualifies for a total saving of £5,870, while the sought after Corsa (pictured) supermini range qualifies for nought per cent finance for three years.



Citroën's surefooted recession-buster MPV

FOR motorists wrong-footed by recession, Citroën says it offers a "surefooted response" – the Nemo Multispace.

This spacious 60+mpg, sub £10,000 family recession-buster MPV emits just 119g/km in CO2 emissions and comes with a further sweetener: would-be customers can part exchange their pre-2000 registered car through Citroën's £2,000 'Scrapage Incentive' and drive away a new Nemo for just £7,995. There is just the choice of a 1.4-litre petrol or diesel engine and one generous trim level.



OUT ON ITS OWN: It's wrong to pitch the Epica against the more upmarket Vauxhall Insignia, but rather should be judged against rivals such as the Dodge Avenger and Kia Magentis

Chevy's epic proportions hide some epic surprises

CHEVY'S family car contender matches its name – the Epica has epic proportions and surprises in equal measure.

At first glance it seems a ponderous and clumsily finished 'Yank Tank', but closer inspection shows it is better than that and, like all Chevys for the UK, comes from Korea.

The big surprise is handling. The Epica is some way from the classic big Yank 'sedan' that corners like a spongy bedstead. It can still deliver the comfort preferred by the US market, but makes a decent fist of country lanes even if it will never be a sportster.

In any case, with list prices from just above £14,000 – and local dealers have new cars available for less than 11 – it is wrong to pitch the Chevy against the state-of-the-art Ford Mondeo or the Epica's more upmarket General Motors' stablemate, the Vauxhall Insignia.

Instead, it should be judged and voted tops against other US and Korean rivals such as the Chrysler Sebring and Dodge Avenger and the Kia Magentis and Hyundai Sonata.

Don't bother with the six-cylinder 2.0-litre

ROAD TEST

CHEVROLET EPICA

■ BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

petrol entry option though – most buyers go for the four-pot 2.0-litre diesel tested here.

It is smooth with the low and mid-range punch needed for this big wagon and yet impressively economical, making the car a favourite with taxi operators and the caravan set, rather than image-conscious private buyers and company car executives.

Cabin quality is better than small Chevys on the market and even quite luxurious, with a functional layout. Leather seats on our flagship LT model felt smart and comfortable with rear passengers getting acres of space and a sizeable armrest to lounge against. It is a bit like taking your sofa on the road and only seems to be lacking a drink cabinet.

The seat backs also flop forward to allow long items to be carried, though the boot itself is immense.

In Chevy fashion, standard kit is generous: junior LS trim brings air con, cruise control, electric windows all round, alloys, leather covered steering wheel, powered mirrors and an MP3 sound input. My main complaint was the slightly vague five-speed manual gearbox on the diesel test car – the six-speed auto 'box could be the better buy.



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*The saving shown is against Parker's franchise retail price for a nearest mileage and specification match. Prices compared against dealer franchised. [†]Selected vehicles within ARG Ltd group stock are cheaper than Parker's franchise retail price for a nearest mileage and specification match. Waters AutoPlanet are a leased credit brokers and are authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. Written details available upon request. Finance is subject to status. Guarantees/Indemnities may be required. Cars shown are for illustrative purposes only. All prices correct at time of going to press. Monthly payment options available on all cars. Written quotations on request, subject to status, applicants must be over 18. [†]-Saving shown is against the manufacturer's recommended retail price, when new. Manufacturers recommended retail price, when new.

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CANTERBURY

The Pavilion, Canterbury
01227 451791

Email: info@robin sanddaycanterbury.co.uk
www.robin sanddaycanterbury.co.uk

ROCHESTER

209 High Street, Rochester
01634 842231

Email: info@robin sanddayrochester.co.uk
www.robin sanddayrochester.co.uk

USED CAR ROUND-UP:

OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

CONVERTIBLES

OPEN-TOP motors are a good way to dispel the gloom of recession and prices have eased too as some hard-pressed buyers seek to liquidate rolling assets. That extends even to the growing breed of folding hardtop or 'coupé convertible' (CC) models that offer better looks and security. This week's used buys feature two of this type, but also check out the Mazda MX-5, available in classic ragtop or CC format and the car that did more than any other to make Britain a top market for convertibles – despite the weather.

MAZDA MX-5



NOW into its third generation, the original MX-5 was inspired by classic British Triumph, MG and Lotus sports cars and given Japanese reliability. Sometimes criticised for a lack of outright power, the MX-5 is more famous for its beautifully balanced handling. Models hold their value well, although an influx of 'Eunos' used imports from Japan drove down prices for the Lotus-lookalike MkI and the latest MkIII offers beefier looks and the most creature comforts, if you can stretch the budget.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

VAUXHALL ASTRA



VAUXHALL surprised everybody with the success of the original Astra convertible and followed up with the brilliant Astra TwinTop – the name inspired by the electronic folding metal roof. Both four-seaters are good looking with roof up or down and the TwinTop is a particularly good achievement when so many of its coupé convertible rivals look ungainly or 'boot heavy'. As with many 'chopped' hatchback convertibles, there is some body flex on both models, but don't let this break a deal.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

PEUGEOT 206CC



MERCEDES pioneered new generation folding metal roof convertibles with the SLK in the 1990s, but Peugeot brought the type to the mass market with the big-selling and plentiful 206CC. Based on the French marque's 206 hatchback and biggest seller ever, the 206CC even had two seats in the back although it should never be considered anything more than a 2+2. While relatively affordable, there have also been reliability problems with the temperamental roof mechanism.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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Saint George's
Church of England School
Humanities College

Meadow Road, Gravesend
Kent DA11 7LS
Tel: 01474 533082 Fax: 01474 561536
HEADTEACHER: Mrs A Southgate BDAKC

Church of England, Voluntary Aided, Humanities College
11-18, Mixed, Comprehensive School

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KS6 Pts 17-20 £18,471- £20,262 (pro-rata)
£15,586 - £17,098 (actual) 37 hours per week / Term
Time Only + 5 days (39 weeks)

We are seeking a Learning Mentor to support students in reaching their full potential. Applicants will need to have a good relationship with students and an understanding of the issues that hinder learning. Strong communication skills to work with individuals, groups, teachers, families and carers will be needed.

Saint George's C of E School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

All appointments are subject to List 99
and enhanced CRB checks.

Contact us to request further details
and an application form.

Email dharivalj@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk or
visit our website www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date : 19 May 2009

Senior & General Appointments **42-44**

Public Notice

44



OPEN DAYS – FRIDAY 15TH & 22ND MAY 12pm to 5pm
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MULTI-TRADE SKILLED OPERATIVES - (Ref.KOS.3)

Regent Development Ltd is a **BUSY** chartered building company acting as a service provider to most major insurance companies. All work is local to our office in Dartford.

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Applicants are required to have a CIS/UTR number/Public Liability insurance/current driving licence/insured van/good communication skills and previous experience within the insurance industry would be advantageous (bring documents with you to open afternoon).

Either attend the open afternoons or apply now - email: nikk.pipe@regentgroup.co.uk or Tel: 01322 626249

SUTTON VALENCE SCHOOL
North Street, Sutton Valence,
Maidstone, Kent ME17 3HL
www.svs.org.uk



HMC: CO-EDUCATIONAL: 11-18 BOARDING AND DAY: 533 PUPILS

TEACHER OF ENGLISH (Maternity Cover)

Required for September 2009 for two terms: a well-qualified and enthusiastic graduate to teach to GCSE and A Level. The successful candidate would also be expected to contribute to the extra-curricular life of the school.

Salary will be on the school's own scale.

Further details, including an information pack, are available from Sarah O'Connell, the Headmaster's PA: telephone 01622 845203 or e-mail: hmsec@svs.org.uk

Closing date for applications: 11th May 2009 Interviews: 19th May 2009

Sutton Valence School is an equal opportunities employer and is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Sutton Valence School
A member of the United Westminster Schools' Foundation
Founded in 1576 by William Lambe

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Situated in Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, The Magazine People

Ltd is one of the area's most prestigious and successful publishers of quality media. Established in 2007, the company is now beginning a very exciting stage of launch and acquisition. As part of this development we are currently looking for an experienced and driven media sales professional with a proven successful record to join our small but highly motivated team.

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To apply please send your CV to

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Abbey Court School

"WE GROW PEOPLE"

Abbey Court School, a 'special' school and a 'special' place to work.

We are currently looking for...

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to join and enhance our large and expanding, high calibre team.

Medway Scale, Grade D2

£14,891 - £18,937 (pay award pending) + SEN Allowance (£1,162)

Are you committed, motivated and enthusiastic? Does 'Every Child Matter' to you? Can you make a difference? If so, share your talents and expertise with us.

Abbey Court is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 4-19 with severe learning difficulties. Working hours are 32.5 p/w, term time only. Previous experience and/or NNNEB (or equivalent) qualifications preferred. Comprehensive training and induction will be provided.

This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure.

For an application pack, please write to/telephone (stating the role for which you are applying):
Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent ME2 3SP
(01634 338224)

Please note CV's will not be accepted. **Closing date: 3.6.2009**



Resident Involvement Manager

Based in Sevenoaks and Swanley. Job Ref: KOS/WKE020

Spot Salary

£28,520 pa

37 hours a week

West Kent Extra (WKE) is a thriving community development charity based in Sevenoaks and working with communities in west Kent and beyond. We are a subsidiary of West Kent Housing Association, one of the UK's leading housing providers.

The national agenda on resident involvement is changing, with the formation of the Tenant Services Authority (TSA) and a move towards resident-led self-regulation.

You will be an excellent communicator able to connect with a range of tenants, staff and partner agencies to promote the value of resident involvement.

We are looking for someone who understands these changes and will work with our staff and tenants to ensure we make positive changes to the way we work.

You should be able to work well on your own initiative, contribute to an existing team and be prepared to go the extra mile to ensure customer satisfaction.

We have a proud tradition of resident involvement work and this is a great opportunity for you to join an established and successful housing association, as part of our Operational Management Team.

You will need to have a driving licence and access to a vehicle for business use. The post includes an Essential Car Users Allowance and is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

You should have a passion for working with tenants and customers and the drive and commitment to ensure they are able to influence and engage with us, in a positive and productive way.

For more information and to download an application pack, please visit our website or call Colleen Coode on 01732 749420.

Closing date: 18 May 2009

Interview date: 28 May 2009

West Kent Housing Association aims to provide excellent customer service, equality and opportunity for all we house and employ

View our current vacancies online at www.westkent.org





Benefit Officer x 3

37 hours

£14,982 - £22,494 pa

We currently have vacancies for one permanent and two temporary Benefit Officers. The temporary posts will be offered as one year contracts.

Based at Sittingbourne, but sometimes working at one of our three district offices in Sittingbourne, Faversham and Sheerness, the main responsibilities of this role will be to check, calculate and maintain Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit claims and give face to face or telephone advice to the public on all matters relating to those benefits and also Council Tax account issues.

It is essential that you are either educated to GCSE standard at grade C including Maths and English, or an equivalent qualification such as NVQ level 2 in a subject area such as Business and Finance or Administration, or that you have at least 2 years' experience in a related area of work such as a customer service or financial administration environment, preferably within Housing Benefit or other Social Security Benefit role.

You must be able to show good computer keyboard skills and knowledge of Microsoft Office packages would be an advantage.

We are looking for people who have good communication and team working skills and the ability to learn quickly. A comprehensive training programme will be provided to develop your skills and knowledge.

The starting salary will be dependent upon qualifications and experience.

We welcome applications for flexible working arrangements.

In addition to salary, we can offer you a generous annual leave allowance, paid bank holidays, flexi time and the Local Government final salary pension scheme.

For further information contact Human Resources, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT. Telephone Sittingbourne (01795) 417414 (24 hour voice mail) quoting reference number 477CS1.

E-Mail: hr@swale.gov.uk Website: <http://jobs.swale.gov.uk>

Closing date: 26 May 2009

Interviews: w/c 8 June 2009



Demanding, exciting and rewarding!
If this is the type of career you are looking for, then please continue

Personal Assistant to the Principal & Chief Executive

Circa £30,000 plus final salary pension, generous leave and benefits

MidKent College is moving into an exciting phase in the history of the College with the relocation from the Horsted and City Way campuses to a stunning new £86m new build located at Lower Lines, Chatham in September this year. Combining this move with the recent award of the Public Private Partnership contract for the Royal School of Military Engineering at Brompton Barracks and the planned development of the existing Maidstone campus, it is a hectic time for the College. MidKent College now has an annual turnover of £45m, a staff of over 1,000 and trains around 12,000 students and 3,000 soldiers each year.

The ideal candidate will therefore be joining during a period of significant change with the opportunity to develop your career within this stimulating environment. You will already have direct experience of working for a senior manager and be fully familiar with the demands and rewards of working at this level.

Reporting directly for and supporting the Principal and Chief Executive, you will hold a position of responsibility, developing strong working relationships with the Directors, Senior Leadership Team, Governors and external Stakeholders involved across the MidKent College Group.

Interested: Please forward your CV to ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk or call him on 07725 128661 (after 12th May) for an informal discussion.

A full Job Description/Person Specification and application can be seen at www.midkent.ac.uk

Closing Date: 25th May 2009



MidKent College is an equal opportunity employer

The College is committed to Equal Opportunities and to selection on merit. It welcomes applications from all sections of society. We particularly welcome and encourage applications from under represented groups including black, minority ethnic and disabled people.

Alzheimer's & Dementia

SUPPORT SERVICES

Registered Charity Number 1024385

Require a

BME SERVICE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

30 hrs per week £20,000 p.a. pro rata

Alzheimer's & Dementia Support Services (ADSS) is the main provider of multicultural dementia services in N.W Kent.

Are you able to engage with minority community groups to raise awareness of dementia among black and minority ethnic (BME) people in West Kent?

The post holder is expected to support the development and delivery of dementia services for people from BME communities.

To request an application pack please telephone:

01474-533990

or email: sue.harman@alz-dem.org by 19th May 2009



Xtra

TIMEBank Coordinator

Sevenoaks. Job Ref: KOS/WKE003



£17,000 per annum
37 hours per week

West Kent Extra (WKE) is a thriving community development charity based in Sevenoaks and working with communities in west Kent and beyond. We are a subsidiary of West Kent Housing Association, one of the UK's leading housing providers.

In partnership with Rochester Young Offenders Institute, we have developed Kent and Medway TimeBank - an exciting new volunteering project aiming to encourage individuals and organisations to work together and create strong, inclusive communities.

We are looking for a project coordinator to set up, deliver and develop this flagship project requiring a unique blend of administration skills and the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of individuals and organisations.

You should be a highly motivated self-starter, with experience in the voluntary sector and a confident communicator able to promote the project to a wide group of stakeholders. You will have good Microsoft Access skills and be able to develop and manage a volunteer database.

You should be able to contribute to a strong, existing team and be prepared to go the extra mile to ensure customer satisfaction. The post is subject to an enhanced CRB check and you will need to have a driving licence and access to a vehicle for business purposes.

For more information and to download an application pack please visit our website www.westkent.org or call Colleen Coode on 01732 749420.

Closing date: 26 May 2009

Interview date: TBC

West Kent aims to provide excellent customer service, equality and opportunity for all we house and employ

View our current vacancies online at www.westkent.org



Career Opportunities

Canterbury College is an equal opportunities employer



Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you.

Section Manager Cleaning/Security/Public Services/Health & Safety/ Environmental Health

06/122

37 hrs per week, salary starting £33,858 per annum.

Supply Lecturers (teachers) required in the following areas:

Theatre Stage Craft (Technical & Design)

Scenic Design & Construction

Prop Making

Stage Management

Lighting Design

Costume Design and Construction

Various hours available, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

Higher Education Curriculum Development Officer

CDO/HE

37 hrs per week, salary starting at £33,858 per annum.

The closing date for the above posts is Tuesday 26 May 2009 at 12 noon

For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference.

Staff benefits include:

- Pension & Life Assurance Scheme
- Proximity to main bus & train stations
- Close to City Centre
- Sports Hall & Gym
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Staff Discount Scheme



CLICK
www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies



CALL
01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)



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Community Business Coaches

£19,500 - £25,000 per annum dependent on qualifications and experience.

Home based

*Do you like helping people?
Do you know the community groups in Medway, Thanet or Shepway?*

Chichester College has an exciting new project for the South East which is funded by SEEDA (South East England Development Agency) and co-financed by ESF (European Social Fund). The project will work with clients in the South East to support them in exploring their route to possible self-employment.

We are creating a regional team of Community Business Coaches and are looking to recruit three coaches in Kent. This is a fixed term contract initially for one year.

Closing Date: 28 May 2009

For more information and to apply, visit www.chichester.ac.uk/jobs

Alternatively, please call Human Resources on 01243 537687 or email: humanresources@chichester.ac.uk quoting HR2901C.

All posts are subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check. We are an equal opportunities employer.



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Electrical experience would be an advantage

Salary: negotiable. Hours: TBA

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Busy, friendly office requires an experienced

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procedures. Salary: TBA. Permanent position.

Rural location - own transport essential

Contact with CV: e-mail enquiries@colsan.com
Phone: 01233 860760

Gravesend Grammar School for Girls

A Specialist Science College

Pelham Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0JE

Telephone: 01474 352896 Fax: 01474 331195

Website: www.gsgs.org.uk

email: enquiries@gsgs.org.uk



TEACHER OF MATHEMATICS

Maternity Cover – September 2009

We are looking for a well-qualified and enthusiastic Teacher of Mathematics to join a highly successful Faculty. The person appointed would be required to teach up to A' Level. Maths is a very popular option with students and a high proportion go on to study a Mathematical course in Higher Education.

The person appointed will receive high quality mentoring and support. The Faculty enjoys excellent facilities and equipment.

We have been a Specialist Science College since September 2004; this has led to a broad range of innovative practice across the school and we are looking to develop cross-curricular projects involving Mathematics.

The School has a high profile for achievement locally and nationally and prides itself on a strong record of internal professional development including a full induction in the Summer term.

The School is also an Investor in People and an Investor in Careers.

Application forms and further details are available from the Headteacher's Personal Assistant, Mrs M Tong Ralphs. Completed forms should be returned by post, fax or email for the attention of

Mrs E Wilson, Headteacher no later than

Thursday 21st May 2009

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



Bredlands Lane, Sturry, Nr Canterbury, Kent CT2 0HD
T: 01227 710392 | W: www.spireacademy.com

Twin Specialisms: Business & Enterprise
and Visual, Creative & Performing Arts



Teaching Vacancies for July/September 2009:

SCIENCE, ICT, FRENCH AND GIRL'S PE

If you are ambitious to 'get on' in the profession then there is no better place to start than at Spires Academy, where you will have the opportunity to work with experienced and committed teams of practitioners.

Spires Academy opened in September 2007 and achieved excellent results at KS4 in its first year with GCSE results in English and Maths rising from 18% to 32%.

In appointing teaching colleagues, we look for candidates who enjoy working with young people and forge positive relationships with them. An enthusiasm for new approaches and ideas is also important.

Further details of all posts and application forms are available on our website www.spireacademy.com or alternatively, contact Marion Wigington at m.wigington@spireacademy.com

Closing date: 15th May 2009.

Spires Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and ensures all staff to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to appropriate child protection screening including checks with previous employers and the Criminal Records Bureau.

WALMER SCIENCE COLLEGE

Salisbury Road, Walmer, Kent, CT14 7QJ
Telephone: 01304 375212 Fax: 01304 380766
e-mail: admin@walmersciencecollege.co.uk
Headteacher: Simon Heaton BSc (Hons) NPQH

MIXED 11-18 HIGH SCHOOL 789 ON ROLL REQUIRED FOR 1st SEPTEMBER 2009

TEACHER OF MATHEMATICS

This could either be a full-time post or 0.6 FTE (MPS – R&R ALLOWANCE FOR SUITABLE CANDIDATE)
POSSIBILITY OF 2 UC FOR SUITABLE CANDIDATE

The post would be suitable for either NQTs or more experienced teachers. A comprehensive induction programme will be offered whatever your status.

The successful applicant will:-

- be a creative teacher with the ability to motivate students of all abilities;
- be enthusiastic and energetic;
- have a commitment to raising standards;
- have a commitment to providing a first class learning experience for all our students.

Walmer Science College is a good school with outstanding features (Ofsted 2007)

Walmer Science College is committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and the successful applicant will be required to apply for an Enhanced Disclosure via the CRB. For an application form and further details, please contact Mrs Windsor at the school.

Closing date : 19th May 2009

To advertise in this section



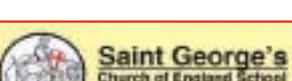
01303 817040

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOTAL AUDIO VISUAL LIMITED

In accordance with Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Act and Rule 198(1), Martin C Armstrong FCA FABP MPA MIA of Tunpin Barker Armstrong, Allen House 1 Westmead Road, Sutton, Surrey, give notice that on 29/04/2009 I was appointed Liquidator of Total Audio Visual Limited, on behalf of members and creditors. Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above named company, which is being wound up, will be entitled to send to me in their full Christian and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their sureties and to the undersigned, Martin C Armstrong FCA FABP MPA MIA of Allen House 1 Westmead Road, Sutton, Surrey, the Liquidator of the said company, and, if so required, will be entitled to send to the said Liquidator, any personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims as shall be specified in such time and place as the Liquidator may fix. Notice is also given that they will be entitled to the benefit of any distribution. Dated 29/04/2009

MARTIN C ARMSTRONG FCA FABP MPA MIA, Liquidator



Humanities College

Meadow Road, Gravesend

Kent DA11 7LS

Tel: 01474 533081 Fax: 01474 561536

HEADTEACHER: Mrs A Southgate BDAK

Church of England, Voluntary Aided, Humanities College
11-18, Mixed, Comprehensive School

TEACHER OF HUMANITIES

Required for September 2009

Main Pay Scale

We require a well-qualified, enthusiastic and innovative teacher of humanities who is committed to raising the achievement of our students.

Saint George's C of E School is a successful, innovative and over -subsidised Humanities College. This post comes at an exciting time for the school as we are preparing for new buildings under Wave 4 of BSF.

Saint George's C of E School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

All appointments are subject to List 99 and enhanced CRB checks.

Contact us to request further details and an application form.

Email dhariwalj@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk or visit our website www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date : 15 May 2009



Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
Maidstone Road, Rochester, Kent ME1 3EL
Tel: 01634 844008

email: harrisonj@sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk

A Voluntary Controlled School specialising in Mathematics, Computing and Humanities

An 11-18 Boys' Grammar School of 1180 students including 300 in the co-educational Sixth Form
"OUTSTANDING" Ofsted November 2008 – "a buzz of excitement pervades the school"

Teacher of Spanish and French

An enthusiastic teacher is required to cover maternity leave from 1st September 2009. The Modern Languages department enjoys a newly equipped language laboratory and run trips to Spain and France on an annual basis. The school is twinned with Lycee St Marc near Bourgoin, and has e-mail links with schools in Spain.

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Mote were out-glassed by Court

A CENTURY from Aaron Glass helped inflict a massive nine wicket defeat on The Mote 2nd XI in the 2nd XI Premier League.

The Mote secured a healthy total of 205-8 from their allotted 50 overs, but a devastating display with the bat from Gore Court condemned Maidstone to a heavy defeat. Paul Geary's (76) put Court in a good position, but Glass was the star hitting 115 runs from 114 balls.

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Mark Stimson looks back on his own play-off experiences as player and manager

Mote's bowlers get their side off to a flyer

CRICKET

■ BY TOM HOWARD

THE Mote's bowlers proved to be the difference between the two sides as they helped secure a 64 run victory on the opening day of the cricket season.

The Maidstone side, who finished third in the league last season, batted first and opener's Matthew White and Tom Harvey made the most of their chance, putting on 77 for the first wicket.

Daniel Thirkell (30), Glen Aukett (39) and Laurence Waters (20) kept the score ticking over as The Mote rolled towards 187 all out. Folkestone's bowlers struggled, with only Sher Khanagha providing significant trouble for The Mote. He was the pick of the bowlers for

Folkestone, taking three for 23.

Folkestone's batsmen found the going difficult in their bid to chase down the score. The Mote's bowlers, particularly Waters and Aukett, who took four wickets-a-piece, made Folkestone's task all the more difficult. Aukett finished with figures of four for 25.

Stewart Graham proved to be Folkestone's best batsmen on the day, scoring 35 before The Mote rattled through the tail in the evening. Folkestone were eventually bowled out for just 123 after 34.2 overs, leaving them 64 runs short of victory.



AT THE CREASE: The Mote dealt with Folkestone's bowlers well and sensibly batted their way to total good enough for victory during their season opener

Kent League Division One

The Mote 1st XI v Folkestone 1st XI

The Mote

	Runs
Matthew White	44
Tom Harvey ct&b Khanagha	33
James Hodgson lbw b Khanagha	0
Daniel Thirkell b Currie	30
Chris Back ct Graham b Khanagha	0
Laurence Waters	20
Ed De Lucy ct Bourne b James	0
Glen Aukett not out	39
Kym Daley ct Graham b Bray	11
Alex Fordham b Bray	1
Danny Rowe b Currie	2
Extras (5w 2nb)	7
Total (all out, 49.5 overs)	187

	Runs
Luke Sage st Fordham b Waters	1
David Miles b Aukett	27
Andy Bourne ct Aukett b Waters	0
Joshua Bryen lbw b Waters	10
Sher Khanagha lbw b Waters	1
Laurence Ward lbw b Aukett	0
Liam Hark ct Back b Aukett	2
Stewart Graham not out	35
Andy Bray ct De Lucy b Daley	25
Ryan Currie c & b Daley	0
Michael James lbw b Aukett	9
Extras (1b 6lb 5w 1nb)	13
Total (all out, 34.2 overs)	123

	Bowlers	0	M	R	W
Andy Bray	12	3	51	2	
Michael James	14	2	50	1	
Joshua Bryen	8	1	21	0	
Sher Khanagha	6	0	23	3	
Ryan Currie	9.5	0	42	3	

	Bowlers	0	M	R	W
Kym Daley	9	3	28	2	
Laurence Waters	15	6	61	4	
Glen Aukett	8.2	1	25	4	
James Hodgson	2	0	2	0	

LOCAL CRICKET ROUND-UP

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR

Ashford Town 3rd XI v Addington Village 1st XI

ASHFORD Town suffered a heavy defeat at the hands of Addington Village in their first game in Division Four.

Addington were just too strong for the home side and posted an impressive total of 331-3 from their 50 overs with Neil Scott scoring 129. In reply, Ashford struggled to get into a rhythm and they were bowled out for just 128 with Neil Scott capping the win off with bowling figures of three for nought.

Addington Village

	Runs	
Mark Rimmer	ct Crowhurst b Jolley	24
James Tooze	ct Bailey b Sardo	41
Will Jeffery	ct Wooding b Crannis	82
Neil Scott	retired not out	129
Ben Buet	not out	14
Mat Bruton	not out	27
Adam Crowley	did not bat	
Jon Pigott	did not bat	
Dan Walton	did not bat	
Steve Merrals	did not bat	
James Fullagar	did not bat	
Extras (9lb 3w 2nb)	14	
Total (3 wickets, 50 overs)	331	

Bowlers

	0	M	R	W
Thomas Bailey	12	2	72	0
Luca Sardo	9	1	74	1
Joseph Jolley	6	2	25	1
Darren Cooper	13	0	70	0
Shane Beech	4	0	35	0
James Crannis	6	0	46	1

Ashford Town 3rd XI

	Runs	
Martin Crowhurst	lbw b Pigott	0
Howard Wooding	lbw b Crowley	31
David Coulson	ct Bruton b Walton	40
Joseph Jolley	ct Rimmer b Crowley	8
Thomas Bailey	ct Scott b Bruton	11
Rob Beale	b Bruton	1
Darren Cooper	ct Jeffery b Pigott	22
Shane Beech	ct Bruton b Scott	1
James Crannis	b Scott	0
Christopher Russell	b Scott	0
Luca Sardo	not out	0
Extras (1lb 5w 8nb)	14	
Total (all out, 33.5 overs)	128	

Bowlers

	0	M	R	W
Dan Walton	10	3	35	1
Joe Pigott	5.5	1	18	2
Adam Crowley	7	2	46	2
Mat Bruton	9	3	28	2
Neil Scott	2	2	0	3

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION FIVE

Offham 1st XI v Bettleshanger Colliery Welfare

LEONARD Watt and Jamie Towe were the stars of the show in an entertaining Division Five encounter at Offham.

Offham batted first and made a promising start with Leonard Watt hitting 119, but he was the only batsmen, who provided any resistance to Jamie Towe who took seven for 54. Bettleshanger couldn't match Offham's total in reply, posting 220-9 to clinch a losing draw.

Offham

	Runs	
Graham Razey	ct D Towe b C Towe	37
Tom Gittings	ct J Towe b J Towe	0
Leonard Watt	ct Fletcher b J Towe	119
Ben Gittings	ct McNicolas b J Towe	0
Nathan Faulkes	b J Towe	0
Andrew Stuart	ct Garton b King	22
Lawrence Bell	b J Towe	17
Mervyn Brooker	b McNicolas	18
Tony Rajaratnam	not out	12
Andrew Prescott	b J Towe	4
Simon Hallbrook	ct M Towe b J Towe	0
Extras (10b 5lb 3w)	18	
Total (all out, 49.4 overs)	246	

Bowlers

	0	M	R	W
Andrew McNicolas	15	2	60	1
Jamie Towe	13.4	0	54	7
Steven King	10	1	63	1
Clive Towe	6	1	41	1
Liam Collins	5	2	13	0

Bettleshanger Colliery Welfare

	Runs	
Clive Towe	b Watt	5
Chris Carton	ct Faulkes b Watt	9
Liam Collins	ct Rajaratnam b Razey	21
Joffy Towe	ct Hallbrook b Razey	8
Jamie Towe	ct Watt b Brooker	55
Andrew McNicolas	ct Prescott b Hallbrook	18
Darren Fletcher	b Rajaratnam	63
Derek Towe	not out	6
Steve McNicolas	ct Stuart b Rajaratnam	9
Steven King	b Watt	0
Matthew Towe	not out	0
Extras (7b 8lb 11w)	26	
Total (9 wickets, 50 overs)	220	

Bowlers

	0	M	R	W
Leonard Watt	14	3	41	3
Tony Rajaratnam	12	3	57	2
Graham Razey	13	0	67	2
Simon Hallbrook	7	3	26	1
Mervyn Brooker	4	0	14	1

KENT FEEDER LEAGUE WEST 1B

Leybourne 1st XI v Wilmington 1st XI

DANIEL Bowman's knock of 86 helped Leybourne set up a 29-run victory against Wilmington.

Leybourne batted first and were struggling until Bowman came to the crease. He hit 11 fours and two sixes on his way to 86, when his wicket was taken by Tim Cotton.

Wilmington eventually bowled Leybourne out for 216, but the total proved too much for the visitors to chase down.

Leybourne

	Runs	
Matthew Simmons	ct Haward b Hirst	16
David Lock	ct Rampersad b Smith	18
Daniel Bowman	ct Peters b Cotton	86
Ben Gittings	b Hirst	0
Nathan Faulkes	b Hirst	2
Andrew Stuart	ct Nicholson b Cotton	21
Lawrence Bell	b Wootten	0
Mervyn Brooker	not out	11
Tony Rajaratnam	lbw b Wootten	0
Tim Cotton	not out	0
Extras (10b 4lb 14w 2nb)	30	
Total (all out, 46 overs)	216	

Bowlers

	0	M	R	W
Tim Cotton	10	1	58	2
Jake Smith	6	1	26	1
Richard Wootten	9	3	32	2
David Hirst	12	1	43	3
Vic Wootten	5	0	29	1
Kelvin Rampersad	4	0	14	0

Wilmington

	Runs

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Golf stars to tee off at Tudor Park this summer



ON COURSE: Tudor Park Golf Club (pictured) is almost ready to host its biggest event for five years this summer

PREPARATIONS are already underway at Kent's Tudor Park Golf course ahead of their biggest event for five years this summer.

The golf course, near Maidstone, is due to host the Virgin Atlantic Classic EuroPro Tour golf tournament in August, attracting around 150 up-and-coming golfers from across Europe.

The tour, which feeds into the European Tour and PGA Tour, has produced a number of top professional golfers, including Ryder Cup star Lee Westwood. It will be the first time the Maidstone golf course has hosted an event of this magnitude since 2004.

Head professional Jason Muller said: "It is a massive event for the club. With

GOLF

the sponsorship we have attracted from Virgin Atlantic, we are expecting a big turn out and a whole host of celebrities taking part in a pro-am in the week of the event."

Work has already begun perfecting the course for the competition and the Tudor Park course professional believes it will provide a challenge for the best golfers.

The tournament will be the second EuroPro Tour event in the county this year, with Prince's Golf Club in Sandwich hosting a round in June.

The Virgin Atlantic Classic begins on August 4.

Could village plans bring Stones back into town?

FOOTBALL

■ BY TOM HOWARD

MAIDSTONE United chairman Paul Bowden-Brown is looking into the possibility of building a sports village in a bid to bring the football club back to the county town.

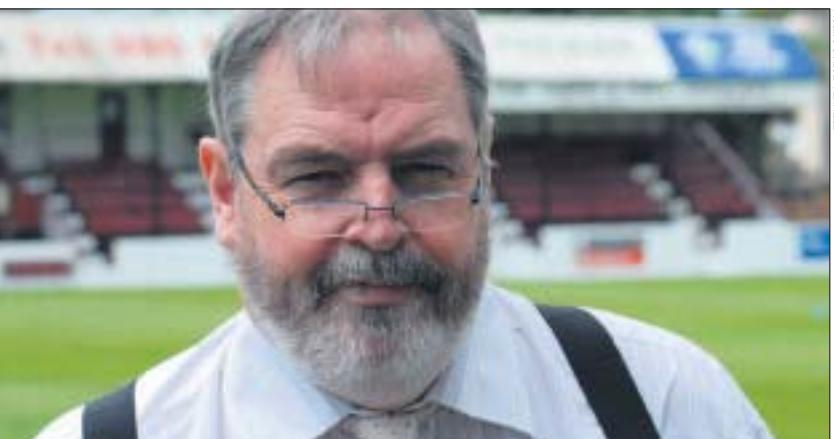
The Ryman Premier League club have been trying to relocate back to Maidstone since its reformation in 1992, with the Stones forced to groundshare at Sittingbourne's Bourne Park for the last seven years.

At the moment, the club are hoping to raise £750,000 to complete their new stadium at James Whatman Way after a grant bid to the Football Foundation failed last year.

The chairman's latest venture to move the club to Maidstone is to look into the possibility of following Ashford Town's plans to build a sports village. The Ryman South club are hoping to incorporate a fitness centre, tennis centre and a budget hotel into their Homelands Stadium to help make the club sustainable.

Bowden-Brown told Yourmaidstone: "It is an option I am looking at. In these times it is very difficult for football clubs to survive with gates down and the current economic climate. Football clubs need other revenue streams and this is why I am looking at perhaps building a sports village.

"It is just an idea I am looking at at the



NEW IDEA: Stones chairman Paul Bowden-Brown is looking into building a sports village, but intends to extend the club's agreement to play their home games at Sittingbourne next season while he works to make the plans a reality

moment, that is all. It would mean we may have to move away from James Whatman Way. We all know how difficult it is to find sites in the Maidstone area so it may not be viable."

Rumours linking the club with a possible groundshare with Ryman South side Ashford Town next season have been dispelled by the Stones' chairman.

With the agreement to play their home games at Sittingbourne ending last season, Bowden-Brown is hoping to extend the

arrangement for the next campaign.

He said: "People have been saying we are looking at sharing with Ashford Town, but it is all speculation. I have been in contact with Ashford chairman Don Crosbie, but it was only to talk about his sports village plans.

"I will be meeting with Sittingbourne chairman Andy Spice this week and hopefully we will come to an arrangement to keep the club playing at Bourne Park."

HOCKEY



CUP GLORY: Maidstone won the Kent Cup for a second time in a nine-goal thriller

Ladies land Kent Cup for second season

Maidstone ladies 5

Holcombe ladies 4

A HAT-TRICK from Sue Leaning helped Maidstone ladies 1st XI clinch the Kent Cup in a nine-goal thriller against Holcombe on Sunday.

Maidstone started brightly and won a penalty early on which was converted by Laura Thompson and she added a second goal minutes later. Leaning grabbed her first of the afternoon to give Maidstone a three-goal cushion, but on the stroke of half-time Holcombe pulled a goal back.

Holcombe were fired up for the second half and levelled the game with two quick-fire goals. However, neither side could find a breakthrough and extra time was needed.

The tie was settled by Leaning, who scored twice to complete her hat-trick. Holcombe pulled a goal back late on, but it was too little too late.

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Gills defender Simon King looks back on the play-off final showdown



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